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19-27 : A MESSAGE FOR 1927.

DURING the past year, this first page of the JOURNAL has been beneath the master-hand of Diogenes, who has punished the bowling properly and lifted the leather again and again to the four points of the Compass. He has now retreated for an interval, and has given orders that the pitch be meanwhile rolled by one named after Diogenes' domicile. During 1927, I may even be put on for a few overs of highly mixed bowling, most of it clean off the wicket. But this at least may tempt you to desert stone-walling, and to open your shoulders as you should.

Meanwhile, will you please observe that the year of grace is 1927, and you cannot do better for Toc H than to let the figures themselves remind you of two obligations. First, that the years 19 to 27 are a clue and criterion which the year itself provides, whereby the work of Toc H may fairly be tested. It is between these ages, for the most part, that the province of our Movement must lie. If your Group or Branch has not a strong contingent whose average age is between this lower and upper figure, it may be excellent in other respects, but it is in danger of failing to face the true issue which Toc H arose to meet. In the March Number I shall hope to give my reasons for this conviction—in February I hope to be free to write mere folly. But let the first consideration of a Group or Branch in the picking of new men from its waiting list, be this :—other things being equal, let us remember that only the Elder Brethren grow not old. Every unit has room for some invaluable senior men on the active list. It may also be wise to have a few—a very few—under nineteen. But the fighting force—for their own sakes—must come, in the main, from fellows who have reached manhood, and yet not gone too far beyond its threshold. This is the alienated age 19-27; and these are the men for whom the main work is waiting. In Toc H we set up an old ensign—not a new one—to which they will rally, if they respect the Group already standing round it. Within the wide room of Christianity, we do not sit in judgment on their doctrines, but test them (as I trust we test ourselves) by sheer willingness to act and think and be their best. The average Englishman is so shy of being thought a hypocrite that he would rather seem more irreligious than he is. But no one likes to be thought selfish; and on this—his own chosen and admitted ground—Toc H must test a man for its teams.

Secondly, let 1927 be a season when the fine out-fielders are given work to do for us and from us all. If our great cause of alienation is the mobility of men, remember that Toc H, though still relatively small, is already almost world-wide. Six years ago, a man who left London could not be dealt with by Toc H elsewhere. Three years ago, a member leaving England—unless for two small units in Canada—could not be corporately welcomed. From 1925, the game of tip and run has developed into a great match with steady pairs of hands waiting along each boundary, and in many lands your kindred in Toc H stand ready to do your bidding for the stranger. There is as yet no fixed system of commendation; such will no doubt develop by use. But when you admit a candidate, let him be one whom you are prepared to send anywhere as a representative of your Branch or Group. Don't let a good man be lost to Toc H or a poor specimen introduced by any negligence on your part. Great ships are launched stern first, and Toc H must first be stern. An easy-going admission, or the scamping of a commendatory postcard, may either do more harm than any of us know.

Ten years ago, this year, at Passchendaele, the Old House lost thousands of its sons. Let 1927 be a year when no true son is lost, and many true sons gained.

TUBBY.

THE BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL OF 1926.

The account of the Festival at Manchester on December 11 and 12 which follows has been mainly written by Don Cleland, Organising Secretary of Toc H Western Australia, and a member of the Australian delegation to the Festival. Some details, unrecorded by him, have been added by various other hands and inserted in their proper places in the report.—ED.

FOR months past the eyes of all Tochonians had been focussed on Manchester, the scene of the year's Birthday Festival. It was an excellent idea to move to the provinces, and the extra work involved was most admirably carried out by a great-hearted Committee, to whom all credit be. At last the week arrived and the stalwarts at Manchester slaved to complete the arrangements before men from every corner of England, from the far posts of the Empire and beyond its boundaries, came pouring in in their hundreds. Among the first overseas men to arrive were the Australian delegation, who duly deposited their baggage at Mark IV on Friday afternoon. It was to them a great inspiration to meet men during the Friday evening and Saturday morning coming in from all corners of this dear land.

THE SOUTH GOES NORTH.

Members arrived from all quarters throughout the day, and from London, the home of all previous Birthday Festivals, there came a large band of true-hearted pilgrims, not to be outdone by the bare 200 miles separating All Hallows from Manchester Cathedral and the Albert Hall from Albert Square. Some of them dared the roads—though not on foot; others the L.M.S. railroad—and found it good—some six hundred pilgrims in all. These represented not only London's fifty Branches and Groups, but those further afield which made London their jumping-off place. At St. Pancras the week-enders boarded reserved coaches, and were overjoyed to see the Prince of Wales join the train *en route*, and sorry to lose him at Chorlton whence he drove by car to Mark IV to be present at a Toc H ceremony which did not belong to the Birthday proper (see p. 14). Making their way to the Cathedral this first detachment was mistaken by the vergers for the larger party which left Euston at 1.15

on the "Toc H Special" and "de-trained" its ten coach-loads in Manchester a few minutes after 5 p.m. All precautions had been taken by the authorities to deal suitably with these four hundred invaders. No sooner had they jumped from the train than they were marched off in fours under escort—and a very efficient and friendly escort the Manchester police proved to be, producing also a police band to hasten steps towards the Cathedral. Over the cobblestones, like a battalion on the move, they marched, avoiding the traffic of the main streets; "trudging on, singing praise," they traversed the dimly-lit side streets, until they finally stood in the light of the Cathedral. There they found the family already too large for all to find seats, and so they stood in thanksgiving, a worthy muster from London and the South.

THE THANKSGIVING.

The scene shifts to Manchester Cathedral where the Thanksgiving Service was held. From 5 o'clock and onwards men and women poured in, and at 5.30 many of the gangways of this great three-aisled church were packed. Looking around one felt that here indeed was a grateful family waiting to give thanks for the year's work, and to find inspiration and greater faith for the years ahead. Not a sound was heard except the rustle of the service leaflets, until suddenly cheering from the crowd waiting outside announced that the Prince's car had come to a halt at the West doors. A few minutes later our Patron was moving up the aisle to the voice of the Family joining in that beautiful hymn "Come, Kindred, upstand in the valour of Jesus." In a spirit of simple thanksgiving the service proceeded. It was arranged as a conversation between characters in Bunyan's allegory with Christian himself and Christiana answering in the voices of the congregation. Padres of all denominations and from divers places in England and beyond her shores spoke the various parts to signify the all-embracing nature of our brotherhood. None dare forget the voice of the Founder Padre speaking as *Goodwill*, when he said "Therefore, good Christian, come a step with me. That is the way you must go: straight as a Rule can make it." After the Australian Padre has spoken as *Evangelist*, the Family sang the "Working Members' Hymn":—

"Yet long it is since I began
And little have I done.
God give me grace to play the man,
And heed my heart and tongue."

THE SERMON.

During the singing of a portion of the *Benedicite*, the Lord Bishop of Manchester slowly made his way to the pulpit. Amid intense silence William Temple began a simple but beautiful address with the text "The armies which are in heaven followed him." Space alone precludes giving the sermon at length, but it was an inspiration to the Family to hear the preacher so simply and sincerely utter words to this effect:—

"Of all the movements which have come out of the turmoil of the war I believe this one to have the truest vitality, and that because it has based itself on remembrance of fellowship in endurance and suffering—at the heart of this gathering will be found the memory of those who would have been present had they lived—and also because it has based on such remembrance a fellowship of service. Great experiences in the past and great hopes for the future are the two things which have most united men. Toc H has coupled them together. It desires no one who does not wish to find some service he can do."

THE BESTOWAL OF UNKNOWN SOLDIERS' CROSSES.

The address finishes; the great tune of "O Valiant Hearts" breaks forth on the stillness;

the Family take it up with fervent thanksgiving. The Prince quietly moves to the steps of the nave, and as quietly representatives from Mark I Buenos Aires, Broxbourne Branch, Grantham Branch, Northampton Branch, Nottingham Branch, Louth Group, and Newcastle (New South Wales) Group move up and receive from him for their chapels a weather-stained wooden cross from the grave of an unknown soldier in Flanders. A simple ceremony, but yet how truly does it typify the spirit of remembrance with which we honour the Elder Brethren.

The Prince returns to his seat and the service closes with the Blessing and the Recessional Hymn "Ten thousand times ten thousand."

TO SUPPER AND THE FREE TRADE HALL.

The congregation poured out through the waiting crowds of Manchester citizens which surrounded the Cathedral and lined the pavements of the streets leading to the Town Hall whither the Prince drove to sup with the Lord Mayor and a small party of friends of Toc H in the North. Members were distributed, according to the supper tickets they held, between a number of cafés. From these—after a short but "active job of work"—they emerged in fours (under police guides because of the crowds which impeded progress) and marched on to the Free Trade Hall.

Long before the appointed hour groups of Tochonians poured in and took their seats. As the hall filled the spirit of hilarity grew until, as the hour of 7.45 approached, Group was out singing Group, Branch outcalling Branch in weird calls; old friendships were being renewed and, better still, new ones being made. Round songs and choruses at times displayed group rivalries in voice production: "There's a hole in my bucket," with opposite sides of the gallery taking the parts of "Georgie" and "Eliza," was a real triumph. Suddenly the organ was heard amidst the din—the opening bars of the National Anthem. Hilarity gave way to soberness as the Family gave voice to it, while their Patron stood before them on the stage with Tubby as his support. When the Anthem closed the Prince addressed his "brother in Toc H."

THE PRINCE'S SPEECH.

"In choosing Manchester for our first venture out of London," he said "I don't think we have gone far wrong"—for by so doing Toc H was honouring Pat Leonard, testing the truth of the old saying "What Lancashire thinks to-day," &c., and experiencing a welcome from the Lord Mayor of a great city long to be remembered. The Prince then drew an analogy from the Imperial Conference. "In that remarkable State paper, the Balfour Report, we find it expressly stated that all are equal members under the Crown of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and that the free and unfettered settlement of domestic affairs is regarded as the fundamental basis of our common heritage. It should be just the same with Toc H. We have our central ideals and inspirations. We believe in service; we believe in the duties of youth; we believe in character and all that may be done to train it for the benefit of others. But we leave the carrying out of these ideals to the Branches themselves. The more we can give our growing organisations the right to decide their own methods the more we shall find them respecting the common stock, and the better will they serve to bring together all that is best into Toc H, whether at home or overseas, for service is a common heritage to all mankind." The Patron also announced a piece of news which for two years has been kept a very close secret, by the wish of the lady concerned—that the donor of the splendid Mark I at Buenos Aires is Mrs. Shennan, and that the House is a memorial to her husband, David Shennan, who was connected with the Argentine for many years. He also spoke most warmly of Harry Ellison's pioneer work in Africa, and with feeling of Herbert Fleming's death.

As the Prince came down from the platform and made his way through the hall between the 3,000 standing members, and until he took his seat in the gallery, cheer after cheer resounded.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS.

Before the "curtain went up" the General Secretary read from the platform a number of messages received by telegraph and cable. From Branches and Groups at home which were unable to send representatives came the following:—"EXETER sends Birthday Greetings"; "Hearty greetings from CLACTON-ON-SEA Group"; and "A very happy time to all and lasting memories. We regret being out of it all. Good wishes and God speed" from WEST HAM; while Sergt. GODLEY of BRIGHTON Branch, once on the staff of the Old House at Poperinghe and in 1925 an actor in the Birthday Masque, sent "Salutations to all at Manchester."

From Overseas came many messages. Travelling Eastward round the world the nearest was from ANTWERP. "Group sends greetings"; and then came, as from Italy where Lord Forster is recuperating after his recent illness, his and Lady Forster's "Love and blessing to the House that love is so wonderfully building all round the world." A stage further produced "Greetings—JERUSALEM Group"; and so on to "Toc H, INDIA, sends cheery greetings and best wishes across the world to gathering in Manchester; we shall think of you. We are on the first objective and digging in with great hopes of further big advance next year. Lamp will be first lit in Calcutta Cathedral, December 15; remember us then" (see p. 21); while MADRAS cabled "Many happy returns of the day," and KANDY "Greetings." From "our furthest kindred in Toc H" came, first of all, a letter from H. J. Ramsay, President of the Federal Council of Toc H, AUSTRALIA, written on October 27: "Through our good friend in Toc H, the Very Rev. Dr. Crotty, leader of the Australian delegation to your Birthday Festival, you will have conveyed to you most cordial greetings and congratulations from all our Groups and State Councils on the occasion of your great celebration. Allow me further, on behalf of the Federal Council of Australia to send a direct and personal message of hearty good will and sincere wishes for a further great and inspiring meeting. Though separated by such a distance, we can still, in the true spirit of Toc H fellowship, be present with you in your impressive celebration, and each and all be inspired for greater dedication in the service of our great Elder Brother and in sacred memory of those who, by their supreme sacrifice, have shown us the way." Three cables also conveyed "SYDNEY's greetings," "Greetings from NEW-CASTLE Group," and the cheery message with a personal touch for "Don" Cleland—"Your harvest, like Westralia's, bumper. GUILDFORD sends Birthday cheers—'tiger' for Don." From the extreme limit of the Toc H map came "Toc H WELLINGTON, New Zealand, sends warmest Birthday greetings"; and AUCKLAND's "Birthday greetings from Toc H, New Zealand. Kiora!" From the West we received "Best Birthday wishes from Mark II, TORONTO," and "Greetings and best wishes to all the family" from MONTREAL; while from the U.S.A. came "Warmest greetings from Mark I, WASHINGTON. Isaiah 62, verse 1" *; and "On your eleventh Birthday, Toc H, God bless you. Your numerous progeny salute you. Greetings from NEW YORK"; and "To let you know we are with you in spirit. Love and best wishes for all from PHILADELPHIA Group"; while Padre Lusk cabled "Greetings" from RIDGEFIELD, Conn., whence not only he but Ted Jessup and his schoolboys have visited us in England.

From the family in South Africa came: "Heartiest Birthday greetings (from) Eastern Province Federation—KEISKAMA HOEK, EAST LONDON, KINGWILLIAMSTOWN, ALICE, COOKHOUSE, SOMERSET EAST, GRAHAMSTOWN, PORT ELIZABETH" (signed by Bert Oldfield, the Registrar); COOKHOUSE also cabled, on its own account, to Harry Ellison, "Convey Birthday greetings." From Bowyer at JOHANNESBURG came "TRANSVAAL wishes you merry Festival"; from the Cape—"CAPETOWN Groups wish you many happy returns of the day"; and from "Gilbert Williams and his Missus" the message "Affectionate greetings from DURBAN Group."

* "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."

THE MASQUE.

The lights go down, talk ceases, the organ begins the Prelude. The Prelude ends; three strokes of a deep gong and the voice of the Spirit of Light speaking in darkness announce that the Masque, *The Light of the Lamp*, has begun. Suddenly the figure of the Spirit of Light is illuminated—a golden figure crowned with a wonderful halo of lighted rays. His words at the opening of each successive Episode must have been a real inspiration to very many in the Hall. The message of each Episode was clear, and through the ages the Family of Toc H saw the story running. We cannot here traverse the Episodes in detail—the early Christians under persecution, the Crusaders setting forth from All Hallows, the trenches before Ypres, the Old House at Pop, the war-weary and disabled who see visions and find new hope on Armistice Day. Suffice it to say that the first two Episodes especially were marvellously produced and created an atmosphere that none present can forget. The appearance of the small boy in the fifth and particularly in the sixth Episode was a touch of genius.

Two "properties" of peculiar interest were used—Richard Cœur de Lion's sword in Episode II had been brought from All Hallows, the old sword captured by Lord Kitchener at Omdurman (and by some thought to have been originally captured by the Saracens from an actual Crusader); and the original chimes from the Old House at Pop, brought by the Knutsford members for use in Episode IV. The Toc H actors in Part I remained anonymous: to them and to the Mystical Players, who produced Part II, heartfelt gratitude is due.

A NOTE ON THE MUSIC.

The revision and extension of the Masque led the Birthday Committee to invite Christopher Ogle to compose additional music. He accepted the invitation and it is hard to express how greatly his uplifting music enhanced the beauty of the whole performance. As last year, he rose to the occasion magnificently and produced compositions which not only exactly completed the setting for the Crusader service in All Hallows but will also be permanently valued by all who are wise enough to obtain the piano score.* The All Hallows Episode called for the most elaborate setting. For the opening of this scene the composer selected the "modal" form and wrote a most beautiful unaccompanied recitative and chorus for Priest and Choir. The words were from an old metrical version of Psalm xliii. Equally effective was the six-part setting of Psalm cxlviii with which this Episode concluded. This was very finely rendered by the massed choirs. The trumpet-like entry, the unison leads of the tenors and basses, and the final triumphant *crescendo* were all extraordinarily effective. We are however inclined on further study of the music to think that the most beautiful item in the new music was the setting of William Collins' *Ode to the Brave* which was sung between Episodes III and IV, immediately after the recital of the death of Mr. Valiant-for-Truth. The sixteenth century theme on which the Ode was based is developed with beautiful tenderness and feeling, and it was unfortunate that lack of practise prevented the choirs from conveying to the audience the full beauty of this work. We very much hope that there will be a further opportunity of hearing this beautiful composition. The music of the first Episode was as previously written. The organ did not, alas! do justice to the impressive Prelude, but in the smaller hall the chorale "*Hail, Joyful Light*" was even more beautiful than last year.

Once again the assembled family of Toc H was uplifted by the music of one of the family, and the listener realised only too little what thought and devotion had been given to its production. We are not in the mood for any word of criticism. If such is our duty, may we say that there were indications that the thought and devotion had been individual rather than corporate, and that before the next Festival we must, at whatever cost of time, obtain the cohesion that can only be mastered by repeated rehearsal.

* The complete words and music can now be bought. See *Toc H Publications* on p. 48.

THE LAMP-LIGHTING.

The lights went up. The Family rose to join in *The Battle Hymn* as the procession of Lamps, Rushlights and Banners proceeded up the hall and on to the stage, headed by the old Guard—"the Gen." in khaki and "tin hat"—and the new—boys of a training ship, of the Boys' Brigade, Church Lads' Brigade and Scouts—bearing the Prince's Lamp, alight, among them. All Lamps and Rushlights on the crowded stage were lighted with tapers, lit from the Prince's Lamp and passed from hand to hand. Then came the lighting of twenty-four new Lamps (each heralded, as at an earlier Festival in the London Guildhall, by John Hollis). The Lamps of new Branches at home came first—*Doncaster* (dedicated to the memory of Sergt. Willie Frost); *Bath* (in memory of Major Settle, 19th Royal Hussars); *Battersea and Clapham* (given by members of the 74th London Company of the Boys' Brigade in memory of their own Elder Brethren); *Bedford* (in memory of Capt. Hewetson, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment); *Broxbourne* (in memory of 2nd Lieut. Beckh, 12th East Yorks Regiment); *Harpenden* (in memory of the local Elder Brethren); *Hartlepool* (in memory of a nephew, John Groves, who fell, and in thankfulness for a son, Thomas Groves, who returned safe from the War); *Rugby* (in memory of Rupert Brooke, the poet); *Southport*; *Whitby* (in memory of Sir Joseph Turner Hutchinson, Chief Justice in many Crown Colonies); *Wood Green*; *Hampstead*; *Plymouth* (in memory of Lieut.-Commander Pownall, R.N.). During 1926 *Wellington*, New Zealand, had been promoted to be a Branch, but the Lamp lit at the 1925 Festival for New Zealand had been bestowed upon it before the Lamp-lighting in Manchester. No other overseas Group had been promoted before the Birthday (several are now imminent), but a Lamp for the *Argentine*, in anticipation, was lit by the Prince amid great applause. The Family greeted with the same enthusiasm the Lamps which followed—all lit for bestowal on overseas Branches yet to be, and meanwhile to be entrusted to the keeping of padres or committees of Toc H in their respective countries. These were destined for *Ceylon* (in memory of Lieut. Mathew, 28th Punjabis, and of his sister, a Territorial nurse); the *Middle East* (in memory of Sir Alan Cobham's mechanic, Elliott, shot down in the Middle East on their flight to Australia). The design on the improvised banner which followed this Lamp depicted the Flight into Egypt—linking Toc H in Palestine and Egypt, and hinting at the Lamp's dedication); *British Columbia*; the *United States* (there was a specially warm welcome as Padre Pryor Grant knelt before the Prince for the second year in succession with a Lamp to be lit). And then came the first-fruits of Padre Harry Ellison's pilgrimage, the outstanding development of Toc H in 1926. "Uncle Harry" himself carried, as was fitting, the first Lamp of six lit for the Provinces of the South African Union—the *Transvaal*, *Natal*, the *Orange Free State*, the *Eastern Province*, the *Western Province*—and *Rhodesia*. Lamps and Banners (decorated with the Springbok) of the Provinces of the Union were all carried by South Africans—Oxford Rhodes Scholars among them; the Rhodesian Lamp was carried by Sir Herbert Stanley, Governor of Northern Rhodesia (this with full recognition that the spread of Toc H so far has been mainly confined to Southern Rhodesia).

Last of all the great audience was asked to stand while the Prince lit a Silver Lamp in memory of Herbert Fleming. This Lamp is the same that stood—first lighted on May 14, 1925, by Her Majesty the Queen—before the Empire Roll of Honour in the Government Pavilion at Wembley, and burnt throughout the second year of the British Empire Exhibition. The War Office had originally invited Toc H to provide it, and, most fittingly, it was in the end offered by Toc H, in memory of a faithful servant of soldiers, to the Army Chaplains' Department. The Chaplain-General, in uniform, came up alone, to have it lit; and he has decided that it shall rest permanently in a niche, now being made for it, in the Chapel of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, the scene of so much of Herbert Fleming's enduring work.

PILGRIMS OF THE NIGHT.

There followed the Silence of the ceremony of "Light" and the singing of Blake's *Jerusalem*. The Prince departed amid ringing cheers. The great hall emptied; it was looking horribly bare and untidy when Tubby and three others crept out to a taxi to do a "billet-crawl." Blankets and mattress in a drill-hall was the order for most, but the first billet was a mobile one, for on the platform of London Road station there waited a crowd of noisy Londoners, soon to board the "Toc H Special" travelling on its return journey from 12.40 to 5.50 a.m. Of the journey when some slept and most did not, of the suppers on board and of the marches to Mark and home in and beyond London, only the "specialists" can tell. Meanwhile the tour of Tubby to "Bleak House" (the Toc H "coffee-stall" in Hulme) and three of the Drill-halls went on. A song here, an evening prayer there, a Franciscan story in one room, a war-time story in another, hymn-singing, and Nottingham's handbell-ringing—scenes all swiftly changing and yet most natural—as Tubby found his way into the billets and hearts of those who kept the night young in the headquarters of their Territorial hosts. Then to Mark IV and a glimpse of the Club-room and Chapel—truly a wonderful preparation for the day to come.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12.

The day began in two churches. At 8 a.m. over 450 Anglican members received their Communion in St. Ann's Church, making their way up to three altars simultaneously to the very quiet singing of *Adeste, fideles*. At 9 a.m. nearly 300 more, who were waiting outside, took their places for another Celebration; while at the historic Cross Street Chapel, near at hand, some 70 Free Church members made their Communion. Tubby, Pat, Sawbones and most of the Area Padres took part at St. Ann's, and at Cross Street Alex Birkmire officiated, assisted by Padres Bateson and Herbert Leggate (Manchester).

Breakfast in "assembly formation" was a gay and protracted business, and after it the crowd dispersed to occupy a short morning in various ways. Many visited Mark IV, Mark XIV and the Hulme House. Others went to listen to a Toc H sermon—and there was plenty of choice. Tubby preached at Holy Innocents, Fallowfield at 11 (and in the Cathedral in the evening). The other preachers were:—Padre Bateson at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. at the Albert Hall (Wesleyan); Kenneth Parry at the same hours at Salford Central Mission (Congregational). At 10.30 Alex Birkmire preached at Great Western Street (Primitive Methodist); Herbert Cawley at St. Mary's, Crumpsall; Tom Garaway at St. Paul's, Kersal; Henry Hawkins at St. Anne's, Brindle Heath; "Robey" at St. Andrew's, Ancoats; Robert Slater at St. John's, Old Trafford. At 10.45 "Sawbones" was at St. Ann's; Harry Ellison at Alderley Edge Parish Church; Harold Hubbard (of Cheltenham College) at Bowdon Parish Church; Herbert Leggate at Claremont Road, Rusholme (Primitive Methodist) and again at 6.30 in the evening; George Standing at Withington (Primitive Methodist) and again in the evening. At 11 Fr. Brown preached at "Oogaf's" church, St. Thomas', Gorton; Dean Crotty at St. Chrysostom's, Victoria Park; Pryor Grant at Sacred Trinity, Salford; Edward Harrison at St. Benedict's, Ardwick; Pat McCormick at St. James's, Birch; Frank Spurway at St. Gabriel's, Hulme; and Stanley Keen at the Central Hall (Wesleyan). So Manchester churchgoers must at least have heard of Toc H!

THE AFTERNOON.

Lunch for the assembled troops was early. Two "private" meetings, not a part of the Birthday programme but taking the chance of the occasion, followed—the first Council

meetings of the League of Women Helpers, and of the League of the Lamp of Maintenance. At 2.30 a "family gathering" was held in the Lesser Free Trade Hall. Although many members, including the large contingent on the London "special," had gone home, the hall was packed tight and many stood at the doors. This state of affairs forbade much movement and so the gathering was less "informal" than had originally been intended. Dr. Garfield Williams gave a most eloquent talk for fifty minutes on the "World Call." His picture of the pioneers in Africa, India and China, and of the need for "fair thinking, wide loving, humble witness and brave building" in those fields deeply stirred the listeners and may well bear fruit in action at some time and place. Harry Ellison then gave some account of his stewardship of Toc H things in Africa during the year; much of the story has been in these pages already, but it was a fine experience to hear it in his own voice. Pat gave out notices various, and Tubby, having "something on his mind," decided to pass it on. As many of his hearers have expressed a wish to have his words in lasting form, a report of the substance of his talk follows:—

"THREE SIMPLE THINGS."

"I am to fill the gap on the clock-face till the turn for your tea-time comes; and by your leave, I will do so by reminding you of three passages in the New Testament. All the afternoon you have had presented to you in the most wonderful way, the great wide issues of the World Call; and then a brilliant little impressionist picture of the problems of Toc H in South Africa. I am going back behind all this to the three earthly needs recorded as from the lips of Jesus during His life on earth:—

I. *A Dinghy*.—The first thing we know He asked for early in His ministry was the loan of a little boat—"And He spake unto His disciples that a small ship should wait upon Him." It was not really a ship, it was just a dinghy. But the writers of the Gospels up to St. Luke were not, like him, men of a Mediterranean outlook; to them, therefore, Galilee was a sea and not a lake, and the small craft thereon deserved a more dignified name than St. Luke was prepared to give them. The boat now needed was the smallest of them all, with the shallowest draught—just something to use as an improvised pulpit for the afternoon. It is surely worth noting that Our Lord was not afraid of new methods; neither He, nor anyone else before Him, had hitherto devised a floating pulpit; but the dinghy met the difficulty, which was a real one. Up till now, the people on the edge of the crowd had not been able to get a glimpse of Him. He was too much surrounded and hemmed in by His friends, and by those who wanted some act of healing from Him; He was being impeded in His true work of teaching, and it was not in His character to tolerate so unnecessary an impediment when the remedy, however odd, lay near at hand.

In the world to-day it is much the same. Men worship the mere nets which they are meant to mend or to discard. The cause of religion suffers because we come to idolise old methods for their age, however different the circumstances they were originally intended to meet. Perhaps sometimes we also hem Jesus in, and make it more difficult for the late-comers standing so shyly in the background to get a glimpse of Him. We are timid of new ideas, but Jesus never dreaded an experiment. May we dare to think of Toc H at its best as a little dinghy He has deigned to permit to wait upon Him; a makeshift which may aspire to serve as some new link with men and women, boys and girls, whom He is here to win?

II. *A Donkey*.—After three years, He asked for something else. This time it was a donkey—whose name and nature is ever a consoling thought to me, and perhaps to some of you. Toc H is bound to alter as it grows, and sometimes *seems* to alter far more than we expected or desired; but I am convinced that at its heart it remains the wonderful thing

God made, and that it will remain so, so long as it loves simplicity sincerely. Affected simplicity is a most miserable hypocrisy, but this is because simplicity itself is the one dress in which all charity becomes irresistible. Be sure, therefore, whatever else you do, to keep Toc H in a pure simplicity of spirit ; don't let it grow expensive or inaccessible to the common or garden men and women. (I don't know how the phrase "common or garden" originated. According to Genesis it was only when the man and woman left the Garden that they became common ; and it is only when we let Toc H leave its proper process of grinding away at the new corn continuously coming in, that the upper and the nether millstone begin to irritate one another.)

Is there not somewhere a story of Horace Walpole spending a week-end in a great country house, and going with his host, out of mere curiosity, to hear John Wesley preach. When they came home they agreed that it had been dull enough in all conscience, and that they could not understand why the great gathering had been so deeply stirred. They referred this matter to a friend of Wesley, who asked in answer, "Sirs, were you low enough to be blessed?" We shall never get a benediction if we hold our noses in the air.

There is nothing banal or unworthy about being simple : nor does the presence of a practical bent in a person necessarily exclude very different capacities in the hinterland of the same character. Others besides artists may do well to remember that Leonardo da Vinci both painted the supreme fresco of the Last Supper, and also invented that humble instrument of out-door labour which we call a wheelbarrow. As one moves about through Toc H, or Toc H moves about through Manchester, the test question must always be, "Are not all these Galileans?"

III. *A Drink*.—Five days later, Our Lord asked for one more simple thing, a drink to assuage the utter agony of His thirst. He did so, says the Gospel, to fulfil a prophecy. He did so also because His dying need was intense, and He clung no closer to the Cross than to the principle that His divine powers might not be used under any provocation on His own behalf. Yet even more He did so as an act of crowning confidence in human nature, of the flaws in which no one since the world began had ever had more cause to be conscious. His whole earthly life might have been planned to produce a spirit of everlasting embitterment against mankind for fickleness and frailty, for falseness, cowardice, treachery, and sheer desertion. At this last moment no single friend stood near Him ; yet looking down upon the faces of His foes, up-turned like a snarling sea, He named His need in the serenest certainty that it would at once be met. How thankful we must be that at this last moment human nature responded ; as often, from an unexpected quarter. What He asked was tendered by an unknown, obscure man, acting, as it were, on behalf of all that has been best in human instinct since man was made. And He who had vowed that He would drink no more of the fruit of the vine until He drank it anew in His Father's Kingdom, deigned for the last time to play the beggar and to allow the acrid sponge to moisten His most royal lips.

Plainly, Jesus did not share the view of those who regard it as a sign of weakness to be beholden to anyone whatsoever ; and few things can help us more than thus to find Him ready, not only to give, but to receive from men. This unknown soldier ran quickly to Christ's succour, reckoning nothing of the world's opinion ; and the world at least in tacit tolerance consented unto his good deed. Christ had asked for it with all the confidence that a child would show within a house of love ; and as a child received it without questioning or open gratitude. There had been nothing about sour sponges for crucified Reformers in the commitment that He had laid upon His disciples ; yet at a safe distance they may have remembered the cup of cold water which no little one should henceforth seek in vain. But the first to fulfil the spirit of the commandment was not one of them at all. It is not, therefore, the unknown soldier of Flanders who should stand alone in Toc H as the sole pattern for

all our praises; the unknown soldier of Calvary may worthily bear him company as the first half-believer whose services Christ accepted.

We shall not go far wrong in Toc H if we can continually be testing the main body year by year by its willingness to minister to the needs which, in manifold ways, God does not cease to express. Our life one with another, if homely and unassuming, if simple and sincere, is rightly full of social happiness. But the spirit of self-indulgence must never be allowed to invade even the outer area of our homestead, lest the safety zone that looks so barren and inhospitable fail us when the forest fire sweeps on. Toc H now grows so fast that any detailed process of control or regulation becomes quite frankly inconceivable. We must rest on this, and this alone,—that in every area the neighbourly spirit will be shown between units in all stages of growth, and shown in no sloppy way, but with a sternness against the slack, the merely social, the slovenly, or the self-seeking, which will make it clear to all concerned that the slaking of Christ's thirst is a summons for ever in our ears as the supreme criterion of conduct befitting those who would be of His family. Where there is one man, He said, who is trying to do God's will, that one man is My brother. Where therefore there is one tiny Group with neither money, home, nor influence, struggling as Stockport first began and many others like them, there are they whom He is not ashamed to call His brethren.

But the way of whist drives and dances, fetes and field-days, will never lead us to that brotherhood, either with Him or with one another. The only dividend God cares about is changed and better lives, lifted from idleness to eagerness, from listlessness to love.

It so happens that I have with me two letters only just received from Newfoundland; where, under difficulties we cannot measure, Toc H is now on foot—a fact we owe in part to Sir Alfred Pickford's meeting with two ever-faithful men, and the post-mark of Newfoundland stirs in me the memory of the old story current along that cruel coast—how, when the tackle is hard frozen, the fishing boat's one chance is to move as best it may, not homeward, but into the mysterious course of the Gulf Stream. Once this is reached the sheets will soon be sheets once more, and ropes no longer icicles. Beyond and behind all other motives which draw us to these Festivals, there is a longing for true renewal. God grant that when we part to-morrow, He may indeed not separate us in spirit, but send us back to our scattered fishing-grounds with fresh vigour, faith and resolution."

FINALE.

Through a misunderstanding the Southern weekenders, bound for the 5.20 train, were summoned from the Lesser Hall an hour too soon. They retired to the gallery of the big Free Trade Hall itself, and were there happily occupied by a talk from Harry Ellison and other forms of entertainment, including tea.

By the evening only a remnant of the visiting Family remained in Manchester, and most of those were in the huge congregation which filled every seat in the Cathedral for the "Popular" Evensong, conducted mainly from the pulpit in the centre of this great square church by the Dean of Manchester. Tubby preached, as to a congregation of non-members, about Toc H with very great vigour and feeling, and it may be supposed that some who have hitherto seen Toc H rather vaguely as a social club with curious habits, gained a new view that night of a movement which strives, as Tubby put it, to reflect, however humbly and falteringly, "the Light that Jesus is."

* * * * *

These lines have been penned a little while after the Festival, and looking back upon it one has two definite thoughts. Conjuring up the picture again of the massed Family in those historic Manchester buildings, one realises not only the size to which it has grown but the potentialities of that body of young men; given the right leadership, it must become a force

throughout the world. One's second thought is that the Thanksgiving and the Masque were both parts of a great Christian gesture—and the making of such a gesture means, in itself, a lot in this world of ours to-day. It will mean still more, if only we can but shape our destiny with our Christian foundation always in mind. Forget that—and Toc H dies; remember it steadily—and our opportunity knows no limit.

THE UNVEILING AT MARK IV

WHEN the Prince of Wales left the train, on which so many of his fellow-members were travelling, at Chorlton on the afternoon of December 11, he drove off in his car to Mark IV. The details of his route had been kept strictly private—for his was a Toc H engagement, not a public visit to the City of Manchester—until he reached Victoria Park, where a big crowd, advised by the newspapers of his programme there, had gathered to greet him. The House was closed even to ordinary members of Toc H, and open only to hostellers, donors of rooms, etc., for the business of the afternoon was an intimate family one—the unveiling of a new Memorial in the 42nd Division dining-room. The room itself was built by Toc H as an addition to the original house, and from one corner of it the stairs go down to the cellar which Pat Leonard and the first hostellers “excavated,” after years of disuse, and made into a beautiful chapel. It was dedicated, with the rest of the House, by Bishop Neville Talbot on April 28, 1923, adopted and furnished as a memorial by the 42nd Division in 1924, and now has received the fine and original memorial “tablet” as a crowning touch. The “tablet” takes the form of a massive mahogany frame, enshrining large portraits of the five V.C.'s of the Division and their story, with a glass-case in the centre containing a finely-bound copy of the Divisional History, and is surmounted by the Lancaster Rose and Divisional “sign”—a white and scarlet lozenge. The Prince was received by Tubby and Pat, Major-General Solly Flood, who commanded the Division, Alderman Fred West (late Lord Mayor, a hard-working Toc H member) and others. He lighted the Lamp and said the words of Remembrance. Then, after the singing of “O, Valiant Hearts,” the General unveiled the memorial, which had been covered with a Union Jack, and the Rev. E. T. Kerby, Senior Chaplain to the Forces, dedicated it “to the glory of God, and in memory of our Brothers-in-Arms who have passed out of sight along the path of Duty.” Some prayers and the singing of Blake's *Jerusalem*, concluded the ceremony. The Prince visited parts of the House, chatted with hostellers, and donors of rooms and men of the 42nd Division—some of them in “hospital blue”—and drove off to the Cathedral for the Thanksgiving.

In connection with this unveiling, Mr. G. K. Chesterton bases an article called “The Vision of Vulgarity” (in *G. K.'s Weekly* for January 1) on the headlines of a newspaper report. “I do not know very much,” he says, “about the Movement covered by the title of Toc H. But I know the man who inspired it, my old schoolfellow, Philip Byard Clayton . . . and I can testify that on the one occasion of my attending its meetings (*i.e.*, at Mark I in 1923) the ceremony commemorating those dead in the War was as decent and reticent and virile a thing as I ever saw. It was the only satisfactory modern ceremonial that I ever knew . . . Now I open the large Sunday paper . . . and the first thing that knocks me in the eye is a huge headline about the Toc H ceremony as recently conducted. It is an announcement in gigantic letters ‘D.S.O. Sobs at Ceremony,’ and immediately underneath, in slightly smaller letters, ‘Prince of Wales Lights the Lamp.’ . . . Now if it be asked what I dislike in the domination of this type of Trust journalism, I answer that I dislike ‘D.S.O. Sobs,’ and the man who does not dislike ‘D.S.O. Sobs’ and the domination of the man who is capable of writing ‘D.S.O. Sobs,’ and the type of society which is supposed to be impressed favourably with ‘D.S.O. Sobs,’ and the whole hideous idea of human pathos which insults you and me

with the supposition that 'D.S.O. Sobs' could conceivably move us to anything but mirth or murder. . . . If it was untrue, I denounce it; and if it was true I denounce it more. My tradition makes no treaty with the man who could first spy on a man's tears, then elaborately note his rank, and then clump the two things in colossal letters at the top of a column before he had even told the story; hallooing his remarkable good luck as if he had just seen a shark off Margate or the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo. . . . Coarseness about coarse things is not vulgar. It is not in itself immoral; it is in various degrees improper or inexpedient according to conditions and occasion, and, above all, motive. . . . But to talk grossly about a sensitive and austere topic, to speak loudly about something that remains in high-strung silence like a harp string, to discover what is deliberately invisible and gape at it, to hear what cannot be spoken and bellow it—that is the shame not to be found among rude and simple men. It is nowhere in the popular tales or traditions; it is not found in the old ballads or the Christmas carols; it is a mixture of weak curiosity and strained attention and a stunted mind and an idiot light-heartedness, which is altogether peculiar to our own civilisation of capitalists and cads." Strong language—but worth a little pondering.

LONDON'S "ACT OF PRAISE AND PURPOSE."

London arranged a Thanksgiving Service of its own, intended specially for those members who were unable to attend the Festival in Manchester. It was held on the evening of December 17 in the West Kensington Congregational Church. This large and fine church was by no means full, but there was a great body of sound when the hymns were sung. Before the service began the organist played the Prelude of the Birthday Masque and other parts of Christopher Ogle's music. And then to the singing of "Out of many into one," the procession of clergy and ministers took their places. Among them was Tubby and the three Area padres of London (Birkmire, Brochner and Appleton) and Ted Davidson of Sydney. Among the Free Church padres were Dr. J. H. Ritson (a President of Toc H), Padres J. R. Ackroyd (Lewisham), George Smissen (Hampstead) and E. J. Dukes (Friern Barnet). The rear of the procession was brought up by Neville Talbot, more gigantic than ever in his scarlet bishop's robes. Alex Birkmire carried the Herbert Fleming Lamp (see p. 9 above) which he placed on a pedestal before the Communion Table and lighted. The form of service had been specially drawn up and printed. It was entitled "An Act of Praise and Purpose," * and opened with "Bidding Prayers," began by Tubby, carried on by "members of 1915-1919," then by all the congregation, then by "members of 1920—?", then by all again and by Tubby. After "The Working Members' Hymn" there followed a "Canticle of Praise" in litany form, two hymns, the Gospel, and a "Little Litany of Purpose," adapted from the order of service of the Liverpool Cathedral builders, and concluding prayers. Neville Talbot mounted the pulpit and thundered out his text, "Increase our faith." He preached on the essential foundations of Toc H—"you cannot have fruits without roots"—and digressed into memories of faithful men in the Old House, appealing now and then to Tubby who sat below him. After the blessing the hymn "O come all ye faithful" ended the service on the note of Christmas.

THE LIGHTING OF INDIA'S LAMP.

Among Birthday celebrations overseas, a notable event, of which we shall no doubt hear more later, was the first lighting of the Lamp in India on December 15 (the "old-style" date of the Birthday). A cablegram from Calcutta, despatched on December 17, reads: *(The) Lamp for India was lit by the Hon. Mr. Justice H. G. Pearson at a most impressive service in Calcutta Cathedral on Wednesday evening (in the) presence (of a) large company, including (the) Viceroy, (the) Commander-in-Chief and Lord Lytton. At (the) close (a) procession of Toc H members escorted (the) Lamp to its place in (the) Cathedral Chapel—(signed) COUNCIL.*

* Copies can be obtained from the Registrar at H.Q., price 3d., 2s. 6d. per dozen.

THE PLACE OF TOC H IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

In the course of the report in the October JOURNAL of the first Toc H Countrymen's Conference, held in Kent on July 24-25, 1926, reference was made to the stimulating address given there by L. SHOETEN SACK (West Kent Branch, General Secretary of the Kent Rural Community Council), and an undertaking was given that it should, if possible, be printed in these pages. Many readers, we believe, will be grateful that this undertaking can herewith be fulfilled.—ED.

THOSE of us who have the dual privilege of being countrymen and members of Toc H, cannot doubt that there is a great need for Toc H in the countryside and a great task before it. The job of trying to outline the possible development of Toc H in the villages rather awes one; because Toc H is such a wonderfully big thing—its boundaries as immeasurable as the Christian faith. Yet, if Toc H is to be not only big but sturdy, we must find a pretty clear and definite answer to two questions:—What is Toc H to do in the villages which is not the actual and proper work of the churches? And what should be the relation of Toc H to the many county and country organisations already in existence?

A great development of village organisations (many of them linked up with County Headquarters) has been one of the most significant post-war rural developments. For most villages the day when the parson and squire inspired and directed all village activities is past and will not return. Parochial Church Councils, Women's Institutes, Red Triangle Clubs, the British Legion, are only a few instances of organisations which were unknown before the War. These and other bodies are doing splendid work—each in its particular sphere, and there is certainly no need for another new body with similar aims. Again, there has been a great post-war extension of public social services—the County Council, the Urban and Rural District Councils and the Parish Councils are increasingly being called upon to administer Acts of Parliament which very intimately affect our conditions of life.

The great question is how shall Toc H fit in with these many activities? Is it to be another new County-wide organisation with a new set of specialised rules and jobs or is it to be primarily a new influence inspiring and helping existing authorities and organisations to face their responsibilities squarely and to develop their work in full measure? I think the real purpose of the Countryman's Toc H is in the latter direction—Toc H should be a leavening influence in the village; it should be the spirit which breathes life into dry bones and the influence which draws together for community work the many organisations which are at present too often working independently, usually in ignorance of each other's ideals and often in thinly veiled jealousy and suspicion of each other's organisation. In most villages there is a great need for an influence of this kind; but it involves a good deal of self-effacement in those who inspire it. The work of helping and stimulating other bodies is not easily fitted into the constitution of many of the admirable specialist organisations already at work; but for members of Toc H it should come as the natural expression of the faith that is in us.

Yet, however fine and comforting to our consciences may be the idea that we

are pieces of leaven, we have got to remember that leaven is pretty inert and useless until it is actively associated with something else ; it needs something to work on outside itself—and so we come at once to our relations with other bodies and interests. We have to deal with three kinds of organisations, *religious, official and voluntary*.

The help which Toc H can give to the *Churches* of all denominations need not be stressed here, we all realise it ; nowhere is the need of help greater ; and the ability and duty of Toc H to offer that help is obvious, if Toc H is really to mean what we say it means.

The opportunities for Toc H to help the *Local Authorities* are very great. We are at present spending something approaching one million pounds a day on public social services, yet many of these services are only moderately effective or useful—more particularly in the rural areas—simply because they are not supported by public interest and voluntary effort. Toc H in the countryside can do a fine job of work by helping to form public opinion on these questions and by mobilising voluntary service to supplement and fulfil the work of the Statutory Authorities.

For example, in the field of public health there are the schemes for the after care of tuberculous persons, for maternity and child welfare centres, for the care and treatment of crippled children, the blind and mentally defective. There is need for better understanding of the work of the local sanitary inspectors and other most helpful public health officials. In the sphere of education there is the big job of developing the schemes for further education and juvenile employment, and the splendid County Library facilities. The efforts of the Agricultural Committees in trying to help the rural blacksmiths, wheelwrights and other craftsmen can be backed up by encouraging a more general support of the village craftsmen ; and there is also need for more general interest in questions affecting agricultural apprenticeship and training. Again, there are the Regional Town-Planning Schemes which so vitally affect the health and amenities of rural districts, but whose success cannot be assured unless each village understands, and wholeheartedly supports the proposals of its Regional Town-Planning Committee.

These public services—and they are only a few of many—must have voluntary support if they are to become living developments in the village. Yet most of us know very little about them. The village Wing or rural Branch should first of all get to know all it can about these services. The County Medical Officer, the Director of Education, the County Agricultural Organiser or Chief Agricultural Officer will each be glad to supply particulars of the work of his own department ; sometimes, no doubt, the District Medical Officer of Health, the District Education Secretary or one of the local County Councillors, would attend a Branch meeting and tell members which are the services most needed of voluntary effort and enthusiasm. The jobmaster of any Wing which really takes the trouble to find out something about the County Public Services will probably be a worried man—but his worry will not be to find useful jobs, but to decide which to tackle first.

Then again, Toc H in the villages might help to arouse a greater interest in the work of the Parish Council. The Parish Council is, after all, the unit of Local Government, and any sound system of Local Government needs active, imaginative and sympathetic Parish Councils. It is easy to criticise many of these Councils, but most of their shortcomings are due to the lack of interest and support which they receive from the villagers whom they are supposed to represent. Toc H should be out to help the Parish Councils all it can, by stimulating public interest in its work, by seeing that the right sort of men become Parish Councillors, and by trying to change much of the cheap and idle criticism of the Council's work into a genuine desire to help and improve.

In its relationship to the *voluntary organisations*, the first need is for the job-master—and indeed for every member of Toc H—to find out what voluntary organisations are operating in the County, what are the aims and purposes of each, more particularly what work is being done by the voluntary organisations with branches in the village and which organisations offering work which is needed in the villages have not yet been able to establish a branch and what are the difficulties in getting a local branch started. Where a Rural Community Council is established in the County it will be able to supply most of this information and will probably be glad to send one of its members to a Branch meeting.

The job of Toc H in relation to voluntary organisations should, I think, be threefold: firstly, to help organisations already established to develop their work to the full; secondly, to find out what are the village needs which are still unmet, and to help the formation of a local branch of the organisation whose special purpose it is to meet those needs; and thirdly, to give a helping hand in establishing in the village new County movements which are generally desired, for example, the County Playing Fields Association, or the British Empire Campaign.

Toc H might usefully regard itself as having special responsibility in two directions. Much remains to be done in connection with Men's Clubs in the villages. The admirable work of the Women's Institutes is too often a standing reproach to the men. The problem, is of course, different and more difficult for men. In many the Women's Institute provided the first real "club" for women in the village, and it was able to start on the right lines from the beginning. But the man has always had the public house; and the difficult problem is to meet the growing need for a men's club offering a certain amount of "uplift" without doing too much violence to the deeply rooted tradition of the "pub." There is no solution ready to hand, and there may be no solution of general application. But it would be a big help if Wings and Branches would experiment, working sometimes through the established men's organisations, sometimes through independent village clubs. The results of these experiments—whether failures or successes—would be of immense value, more especially if they could be discussed at an Annual Countryman's Conference.

The other special responsibility is to the young people—the girls and boys of from 14 to 18, who have left school but are not old enough to join—or at

any rate to be welcomed in—the adult clubs and societies. Too often the boys and girls of this vitally important and impressionable age are more or less at a loose end—there is no one who takes a real interest in them. Toc H has already done fine work in helping to find Scoutmasters and Leaders for boys' and girls' clubs. But something more than this is needed. There should be in each village a representative Committee of men and women who will occasionally meet to talk over the problems affecting young people from the community standpoint, rather than from the viewpoint of an individual organisation. Questions affecting further education, playing-fields, crippled and defective children, &c., need to be discussed on the broad lines of community welfare. Here again Toc H might spread the initial idea.

Finally, and most important of all, Village Wings have a great task before them in drawing together the various official, religious and voluntary bodies for the occasional consideration of questions affecting the village community as a whole. The unhappy thing about post-war rural development has been that together with the increase of individual organisations there has been a decline in the ability of the village to express itself as a village; the village is in danger of losing its personality, its pride in itself as a village. The group organisations are becoming too rigid, too watertight, and unless something is done, it will become increasingly difficult for the village to get together as a village. The suggestion has been made that the Village Community Council would help. Quite briefly, the Village Community Council is a body consisting of representatives of every organisation and interest in the village. The Church, the Chapel, the Rural District Council, the Parish Council, and every voluntary organisation—be it Women's Institute, British Legion, Football, or Rat and Sparrow Club—appoints a representative to serve on the Council. The Council is not a Napoleonic executive body; it is consultative—a sort of village moot—which can easily be called together occasionally—say once a quarter—to discuss those problems which affect the well-being and happiness of the whole village, and to help, by a mutual interchange of information, to prevent overlapping, misunderstanding and clashing. One feels that a body of this sort might help village life immensely by preventing the perennial annoyance of clashing dates, by uniting the whole village for such a community purpose as building a hall, or acquiring a playing-field, and by discussing how the existing voluntary organisation—each in its own sphere—can help to develop, as a living reality in the village, those schemes of public social service which have already been mentioned.

There may be other and better solutions, but in Kent at least Village Community Councils have already proved of practical value. Whatever may be the solution best suited to a particular village, Toc H can, I think, most completely realise its great purpose in the countryside if, whenever opportunity arises, it tries to draw the village more closely together for the purpose of meeting community needs. One feels that the Elder Brethren wish it.

L. SHOETEN SACK.

* * * *Toc H for the Countryside*, a reprint of three previous articles in this JOURNAL by members of the Toc H Countrymen's Council, can be obtained, price 3d. from the Registrar.

THE FOURTH POINT OF THE COMPASS

It has been the policy of this JOURNAL since the beginning not to have a "Correspondence Column," but as words used by the writer of the letter which follows were used as part of an argument in our December number, we think he is clearly entitled to state his case for himself. The Padre of the Oxford Branch identifies himself with the "Anglican clergyman" referred to by Peter Monie in his final article (December JOURNAL, p. 435). The Editor has thought fit to print a few very brief comments by P.W.M. on Padre Chavasse's criticism of his article, but does not propose to continue the correspondence.

To the Editor of Toc H JOURNAL.

St. Aldate's Rectory, Oxford.

SIR,—

15-12-1926

As I am the Anglican clergyman who "actually said 'I don't believe in this (Fourth) Point of the Compass about *spreading the Gospel without preaching it*.' I am so glad that our Lord and His Apostles were not members of Toc H."—I should be grateful if you would allow me a little space to explain why I believe this to be a true and needed criticism, which cannot be disposed of by saying that "Toc H is essentially a society of laymen, and that preaching is normally no part of their business." (1) Incidentally how glad we must all be that Mr. Monie breaks his own rule so gloriously, so that we look forward to a published collection of these "Lay Preachments" which have been the outstanding feature of the JOURNAL this past year. Then why this warning to Toc H members not to preach the Gospel? Of course I can quite understand that Toc H loves a paradox, and could not resist a neat turn of words even if rather exaggerated. But Mr. Monie, in his article, while flagrantly breaking the Fourth Point, seemed to take it very seriously.

The real meaning of the caution must be that Toc H wishes to avoid any suspicion of being "priggish." The Society stands for a manly and natural religion, and quite rightly so. But therefore it must be especially careful not to overdo it, and so never kindle a fire upon the earth. Toc H is out against Fashionable religion in the same sense of its being Respectable or Orthodox. The danger is lest it should become equally Fashionable by devising a religion which is Popular. A Religion without a Cross is not Christianity. (2) Now it is a commonplace that the Christian is a witness, and that the Christian witness consists of lip and life, of which the former is infinitely the harder. Is Toc H sure that in its warning against "a cant preaching which puts fellows off," it is not really seeking to excuse itself from this frightening mission of proclaiming "Good News," for the very word "Gospel" implies speech as well as other means of propaganda? No one could have put more forcibly or beautifully than Mr. Monie the duty and attraction of the Christian Life, but this is not to rule out what St. Paul enjoins as the "confession of the mouth." I tremble very much at Mr. Monie's seeming division of Preaching and Practice—the Clergy to Preach and the Layman to Practice. (3) Just as Prayer and Work must go together, so do Preaching and Practice. And that which God has joined together, in the person of Our Blessed Lord, let not man put asunder! As I have said, I quite believe that Toc H means something technical by "Preaching." But such is not the suggestion given to the ordinary mind by the Fourth Point, or of Mr. Monie's apologetic of it.

Preaching is no more confined to the pulpit than the Christian Life to the Religious Community. In its wide and true sense Preaching simply means not being ashamed of talking about Our Lord Jesus Christ. And the Fourth Point gives the impression that members of Toc H are excused from telling other members of the Family what great things God has done for them.

I most emphatically disagree with the implication that Our Lord and the Apostles preached the Gospel in their capacity of Founders of the Church. I think all laymen would rise in

revolt if Christ was claimed exclusively as the first Christian Ecclesiastic. He is essentially not only *Pastor Pastorum* but the Great Layman, whose life is the example for Everyman. Meanwhile the Apostles were first of all disciples, and preached the Gospel first, simply because they were the Friends of Jesus Christ.

I believe there is a vital principle at stake in the present wording of the Fourth Point. Toc H is doomed if there is the slightest hint that it is ashamed of being considered quite notoriously Christian. And its object must be to cultivate in men what I can only describe as a passion for Our Lord. Once given this passion—and you cannot shut the mouth of Christ's lovers. You might as well bid a poet to live the poetical life but on no account burst into song. All the greatest spirits of the past which Toc H invokes as being akin to them in outlook were great preachers of the Gospel and spread it by lip as well as by life. St. Francis was a flagrant offender in this way. (4) And among this number I still include Our Lord and His Apostles.—Yours, &c., C. M. CHAVASSE. (*Padre, Oxford Branch.*)

NOTES BY P.W.M.: (1) I said a good deal more, I think. The League of the Lamp Rule says it more shortly—"the life of steady devotion to Our Lord which spreads the Gospel without preaching it." That is what we are all challenged to all the time, even a layman who has lapsed into quite occasional preaching.

(2) I agree—and, to take lower ground, unless in the present as in the past, some people in Toc H are willing cheerfully to face pain, and worse, for others, the light will speedily grow dim.

(3) I do not think I said that really. I certainly do not think of the clergy, in Toc H or out of it, as preaching and not practising—or of myself or other lay-folk as always practising.

(4) But we little people who can do nothing with our lips *can* do it by our lives. It is good in Toc H to think of the ground which is common to all of us. That in no way implies thinking lightly of those to whom more has been given, and of whom more is required.

MULTUM IN PARVO

☞ The hand of death has been heavy upon some of our Family during the last few weeks: we all offer sincerest sympathy to HARRY WILLINK (Central Executive, one-time Warden of Mark III) on the loss of his younger sister; to his family and Rainham Group on the sudden death of HAROLD BATES (see p. 23); to Loughborough Branch on the loss of their President, ALBERT CHAPMAN (see p. 25); to Spetisbury Group on that of JOE WALKER (see p. 28); and to Newton Heath Group on that of FRANK EASTWOOD.

☞ God-speed from us all to PAT LEONARD, who sails on board S.S. *Neffor* on Sunday, January 16, for Australia!

☞ The division of the YORKSHIRE AREA, (foreseen in the November JOURNAL, p. 415) is now a fact, as will be seen from the Secretaries' list on p. 43. The line of the Rivers Swale (from Catterick) and Ouse is, pretty accurately, the boundary between ARTHUR LODGE and Padre REDROBE on the West and "DUSTY" MILLER and Padre GARAWAY on the East. The LONDON AREA gains in

staff by the arrival of EASTWOOD from Southampton as Assistant Secretary. The MANCHESTER FEDERATION (see Lancashire Area list on p. 43) has now come into being with A. P. SIMON as Chairman, JOHN HOLLIS as Deputy Chairman, and MONTY CALLIS as Secretary.

☞ W. H. CARVER (President of Hull Branch), who has recently been elected an M.P., is a welcome addition to the Central Executive of Toc H. Padre BROCHNER (Brothers' House and S. London Area) has been appointed to the place on the Guard of the Lamp left vacant by Padre Fleming's death.

☞ In an article in the November JOURNAL (p. 412) on *The New Knutsford* it was stated that "Up to 1922 the National Assembly of the Church of England regarded the Test School officially and helped it with a grant." The Editor is asked to point out that this is a serious under-statement: in point of fact "Knutsford was run by the Church of England and every farthing of the cost came out of the Central Church Fund."

NEWS FROM BRANCHES AND GROUPS

London Federation

MARK I.—The Western District is holding its next Guest-night here on Wednesday, January 12. We hope to have a short talk about Manchester, an interval for buns, and Harry Ellison on his feet for a space. The future of Mark I after March seems very nebulous: the lease of the House is up, and we have so far failed to find a new home. *Guest-nights*: January 5, W. K. Fox on "Taxation"; January 19, E. W. S. Ball—a concert; January 26, Mr. Garrett on "Citizenship"; February 2, Business Meeting; February 9, Commander O'Donovan on "Jutland"; February 16, Mrs. Le Mesurier on "Juvenile Delinquency."

MARK II.—*Guest-nights*: January 6, Lawrence Martyr on "China"; January 13, J. Landers on "Prison Work"; January 20, H. R. McDonald, Sports Editor of the *Evening News*.

BATTERSEA AND CLAPHAM.—Since our last note in the JOURNAL we opened our Boys' Club in Clapham, which goes well in spite of a lack of "blokeage" to help. The Shillington Street Boys' Institute, at which most of our members either visit or do some job has also opened a branch club in Eltringham Street, Battersea. We have had Barkis to talk to us twice since April, the first time just at the end of the General Strike, and the second in July in the garden of Christchurch Vicarage—intended as an open-air meeting, but rain came down as the speaker got into his stride. The Vicar came to the rescue, and many who couldn't find chairs sat on the floor while Barkis gave us the wonderful story of the Old House and the early days in London. On November 9 Tubby initiated six of our members at a very full meeting and gave us a view of Toc H overseas. After our promotion to Branch status, we were proud to act as hosts for the District Guest-night at the Stormont Hall on December 16, a small Birthday Festival over which Val Bell presided and at which Barkis spoke. DAISY.

HIGHGATE.—*Meetings*: January 13, at St. Michael's Vestry, South Grove; January 28, at the Congregational Church, South Grove—both at 8 p.m. J. G. S.

SIDCUP.—We have now settled down in our new headquarters, after a great housewarming on November 4, at which Barkis spoke, and at which representatives of various neighbouring Branches and Groups were present. At our Thursday meetings we have had interesting talks from Mr. Burningham of the Shaftesbury Society, C. B. Loxton on the "J.O.C.," Mr. Rundall on "Metalliferous Mining," etc. Our Christmas job has been collecting old clothes and boots, etc., for the poor in this district, and we have gleaned a rare amount of tackle, some of which is finding its way to Mark III and Mark XXII for distribution. Sixteen of us went to Manchester, and we cannot stop talking about it. JACK.

WOOD GREEN.—*Meetings* held at Adult School (next to Police Station), High Road, Wood Green, at 8 p.m. *Guest-nights*: January 28, O. B. Price on "Point III of the Toc H Compass"; February 25, Councillor E. J. Morley on "Local Government"; March 25, C. Cole on "Point IV of the Toc H Compass"; April 22, M. J. Vine on "Work as a Police Court Missionary"; May 27, Chas. Burningham on "The Work of the Shaftesbury Society and Ragged School Union"; June 24, Speaker on "The World Alliance for Promoting International Peace through the Churches."

ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE.—The Toc H Drama League's sixteenth production—*Ambrose Applejohn's Adventure*, played at the Cripplegate Theatre on November 18—was one of the best they have given us, and will rank with *Outward Bound* among their really big successes. The play is an excellent medium for good comic acting, and good acting, backed by the sincere and artistic work of Godfrey Downing as producer, was

given to a most enthusiastic audience. Frank Prout, in the exacting part of *Ambrose*, scored a big personal success in subtle humour; Miss Winifred Gardner and Stuart Bull, as *Anna Valeska* and *Ivan Borolsky*, must be bracketed together for high honours; Miss Bertha Sparkes was a most ingenuous *ingenue*—always a difficult part on the stage, and Wilton Anstey a most convincing aged butler, *Lush*; Miss Doris Ladd and Thomas Willmitt were excellent as the *Pengards*, the “crook” couple, Miss Margaret Elmar amusing as *Aunt Agatha*; and among the smaller

parts Thomas Horan was a success as *Dennett*, and Tom Angliss “breezed in” in the last act and was at home at once. The Toc H Small Orchestra, led by G. W. Martin, helped to complete the success of the evening.

N.B.—On Feb. 5 at Cripplegate Theatre, Golden Lane, E.C.1, “for the first time on any stage,” a new musical play, *Hazard and Love*, written by two London Toc H members. The proceeds will be given to the Northern Middlesex Hospital Wireless Fund. Tickets (5s. 9d., 3s. 6d., 2s. 6d., 1s.) from the Business Director, 123, St. George’s Square, S.W.1.

Home Counties Area

CANTERBURY.—On November 23, despite a heavy fog, a large number of members of the Branch drove in cars to Whitstable, where a crowd of men awaited them to hear about Toc H: the result was that a Whitstable Group has elected its officers, and now looks forward to a visit from Barkis on January 10. On December 2 we visited the Red Triangle Boys’ Club and were defeated in a games tournament. During the month we have helped the blinded soldiers of St. Dunstan’s by assisting the auctioneers at a local auction on their behalf, and are now, together with the “Toc Emmas,” engaged in carol singing for the same cause. On December 7 we had the great pleasure of a visit from Pryor Grant, of U.S.A., and from Don Cleland of Perth, Western Australia, from whom we heard news of Toc H’s progress in their respective countries.

FOLKESTONE.—The Group has recently passed its first birthday, and progresses slowly but surely. Members are occupied in work connected with boys’ clubs, St. John Ambulance, etc., and as we become known in the town other organisations are asking us for help. Our concert party lately gave a show at the local Board of Guardians’ Institute, and hopes soon to give another, and we are now busy on concerts and so forth for children’s Christmas treats. We have had a number of good speakers, and in July received a welcome visit from Tubby, attended also by

Canterbury and Dover members. We meet on the second Friday and fourth Tuesday of each month.
C. F. F.

HAROLD WOOD.—We are settling down to work again, inspired by the Birthday celebrations in Manchester and a wonderful talk lately from Alex. Scouts and Cubs continue to progress, our musical Sunday afternoons are well supported, and we are preparing for a party to 400 children on January 4. On January 1 a squad will attend the Ilford Birthday. We are working with the Women’s Institute here to run a series of health lectures in the Spring.
H. F. M.

RAINHAM.—The death of Harold Bates, our late Secretary, has been a tremendous blow to the Group. He had been “accepted” for the Mission Field, and had just completed his first term at Cambridge, whither he had gone from a lucrative business position, with a view to taking Holy Orders. Ever venturesome (he was a “Middy” in the war) he attempted a short cut back from a footer match at Dulwich and was killed in crossing the railway. Toc H joined his relatives in Holy Communion on December 15, while his body rested in the Parish Church, and the ceremony of “Light” will ever carry a more intimate relationship for many of us. Toc H bearers carried his body to rest the next day, and on Sunday joined with the Bible Class and Scouts in a memorial service, when over 90

lads were present. Padre Ball has been simply wonderful, and though at first we were stunned at our loss, we have been helped to a real spirit of proud thanksgiving for the inspiration of Harold's life and work, with the joyful certainty that he was found worthy of promotion. His work among the lads here has been splendid—he just loved them and served them and they loved him in return. His life was full and happy—full of the joy of service and sacrifice—and made a tremendous appeal to the youth of this place. S. H. W.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—The Branch is doing some practical work, in the spirit of

Toc H, under the guidance of its new chairman, Councillor Eb. Saunders. Various appeals for service have been loyally responded to. Among the recent visitors to the meetings have been Councillor E. B. Weekes, J.P., who gave a lantern lecture on his visit to America; the postmaster of Tunbridge Wells (Mr. R. Ramsay) who spoke on "Post Office Mails—Past and Present," and Mr. J. C. Whitehouse, of the British Broadcasting Company, with a lecture, illustrated by slides, on "Popular Wireless." Eleven members attended the Festival at Manchester.

E. H.

East Anglian Area

FELIXSTOWE.—As a Group we have been studying E. Stanley Jones' book "The Christ of the Indian Road," and discussion arising therefrom has been frank and helpful. We have been feeling our way with the boys' club and expect to take this over entirely soon after Christmas. Hints *re* this subject from other groups and branches will be very welcome. Stewards have been supplied by us for a Dr. Barnardo's concert and a party will assist in an entertainment at one of the convalescent homes on Christmas Day. On Sunday evening, December 19, Padre Miles conducted a Toc H anniversary service at the Presbyterian church.

JARGE.

NORWICH.—The Branch has organised

a series of whist drives at its headquarters during the winter to entertain members of the Deaf and Dumb Mission. Toc H is becoming more known in the city and new members are coming along in good numbers.

L. B. B.

[NOTE.—In the preface to an article by George Fisher, of Norwich Branch, on "Toc H and the Deaf and Dumb," in the December JOURNAL, p. 450, it was stated that the writer is "himself deaf, and nearly blind and dumb." The Editor wishes to correct this phrase—quoted by him from information received—for it is not accurate: George Fisher is deaf but is not "nearly blind" and, though he commonly uses the deaf-and-dumb alphabet, can make himself understood in speech.]

East Midlands Area

DERBY.—The winter session opened with a full and varied programme containing an entertainment by the L.W.H. and two whist drives. A dance held in October was a success both socially and financially. On September 24 a debate on "The failure of modern civilisation" called forth unexpected rhetorical ability. Recent speakers include Preece of Mark XI, the Vicar of Belper, and a B.B.C. Uncle from Notts Relay Station. On November 5 Sawbones described to us his recent visit to America.

Since last reporting, we have lost our Branch Padre, "Appy," to Mark VII and Headquarters: his farewell message will long remain with us and we wish him God-speed in his new job. On Armistice Day a number of us represented the Branch at the town's memorial service, when Skipper Warwood placed a wreath on the memorial cross. On November 18 a club was inaugurated for boys who attended Allestree camp last summer. Derby Rotarians mainly finance it, and the Branch is providing staff. H. W.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—We deeply regret to report the death of Mr. Albert Chapman, our President and donor of our Lamp. "Uncle" (as he was known to the boys) fitted his name admirably. He was a keen and active worker for the Branch and entered into the spirit of it with all zeal; he never lost a chance of helping. Now, as he joins the ranks of the Elder Brethren, he leaves behind him a "light" in the example of a life which found its keenest pleasure in helping his fellow-workers on earth.

NORTHAMPTON.—November was an interesting month for us on the social side. On November 3, H. E. Sellars gave us a talk on some of Tolstoy's theories; on the 10th we were glad to have Mr. Bull, one of the announcers of the Birmingham studio of the B.B.C., to tell us about his job. We had a big disappointment on November 19 when Tubby was prevented from coming, but were specially sorry when we knew Padre Fleming's death to be the reason. However, Spurway and Les Abdy from Birmingham, Davidson from Sydney and Eastburn from Philadelphia helped us no end, and our guest-night was a real success; we had fifty visitors and they caught the idea well. Events during December were—December 1, Monthly Service at All Saints'; Daulby gave us a talk on his work in connection with the Industrial Christian Fellowship, and Mr. Lewis of the Manfield Hospital gave us an insight into work with the crippled children. On December 8, the speaker was Dr. Bosworth. On the 15th we had a report from our Social Survey Committee, a new venture consisting of members of the Branch who are investigating municipal and social activities to find other work in which we can participate; they are also observing

the running of a successful Boys' Club to get experience in this work. R. L.

RUGBY.—It was a source of inspiration to all those members who were able to attend the Midland Rally at Birmingham on November 6. On Sunday, November 7, members went on to Coventry and were joined by a further number from the Branch, when we heard Tubby at Coventry Cathedral. Our service on Armistice Day, the first of its kind in Rugby, was a real success: at least 1,000 people joined us in this act of remembrance. On November 17, we had a memorable gathering at our H.Q., when Padre Davidson, Padre Eastburn, Padre Ewing (late Penang Group) popped in, together with Padre Spurway and Les Abdy, and had lunch with members who were able to attend. We had a memorable evening for our Guest-night on November 30, which began with a supper at which 30 sat down. The distinguished visitors included the Chairman of the local Council, Col. E.D. Miller, Col. Wheeler, Dr. McMasters, Dr. Morgan, Commissioner to Boy Scouts and others. "Grantibus" was our guest of the evening and gave us a delightful talk on "What is Toc H." Fully half of our members led by our Padre attended the Birthday Festival at Manchester when we received our Lamp of Maintenance in memory of Rupert Brooke. On December 14 our Lamp was lit for the first time in Rugby and three new members were initiated. We had a splendid talk from the Rev. C. C. Chambers, on the "Psychology of the Boy." We joined the Coventry Branch in their Birthday Festival on December 15. In addition to our regular jobs a number of members are doing work at the local hospital and our concert party have several engagements on hand. JUMBO.

North and East Yorks and Lincs Area

GRANGETOWN.—We have recently taken new quarters for our meetings. As our late meeting place was on church ground we thought it advisable to find fresh accommodation so as to avoid giving the impression

that we were a church organisation. We were fortunate in securing a room, over the Co-operative Stores, which suits us admirably, there being a plentiful supply of chairs and tables with water and gas at hand for making

coffee, &c. We are also allowed the use of a piano, so we are looking forward to many happy meetings. After hearing our Padre speak on the Pilgrimage to Ypres we are hoping a similar tour can be arranged for the North. We intend raising this question at the next Council meeting of the local branches and groups.

W. R. W.

GRIMSBY.—Our silence in the JOURNAL during 1926 does not mean that we have been idle: we have been trying, with some degree of success to live up to the motto of our Borough—*Res non verba*—"Deeds not words." A "weeding out" during the early months of the year left us with very few members, but those few really 100 per centers—and that's something. Heaps of small jobs were done during the year, but the biggest was raising the money and sending 32 poor boys to the Toc H camp at Bridlington during August, which entailed a lot of work. We are indebted to "Robey" (Sheffield), "Peggy" and "Dusty" (Halifax) and Tom Garaway (Hull) for "putting across" Toc H to a good muster of prominent townspeople at our Birthday Festival on October 31; we are now reaping the harvest of this sowing. Our Lads' Club is now in full swing in the poorest quarter of the town for boys between 14 and 18. Since July the Group has been without a padre, but there is one in the offing; there is plenty of room for him! We shall be glad to see anyone who finds himself in "Fishopolis," any Wednesday evening, at the Coffee Hall, Bull Ring.

SANDY.

LOUTH.—This Group began in February, 1926, when the same time jobmaster of

Mansfield Branch came to live in the town. Meetings were held in the Empire Club, and as the result of a paper on "Housing" read there, a survey of the town was made, and particulars as to rent, accommodation, sanitary conditions, &c., were laid before a meeting of various organisations. Our first Guest-night was held in April; Col. Heneage, M.P., for this division, Col. Kyme Cordeaux, and Toc H members from Hull, Lincoln and Grimsby attended. Padre Garaway (Hull) conducted the first Initiation, and Col. Cordeaux accepted the office of President. In July we held a garden *fete* at Thorpe Hall (by the kindness of Mrs. Brackenbury) which Sir Archibald Weigall, High Sheriff of the county, opened. The funds raised by this effort, for which every member and their wives and friends worked hard, established and furnished our Rooms—a good assembly room, a room for smaller meetings, a kitchen, and an Upper Room with a Carpenter's Bench made specially for us. The Rooms were dedicated on November 29; we feel that they are worthy of the movement and wish to lay emphasis only on the service to which they can be put. W. A. H. & J. P.

SOUTH BANK.—The first Tees-side Social Evening was held on November 22 and was, with the help of the L.W.H., a great success. A Boys' Club has now been started in connection with the work of the local Police Court Missionary, in the Girls' Club building, kindly lent to the Committee. Members have visited Middlesbrough twice lately—for the Re-dedication of the Lamp and for a talk on wireless by a member of Newcastle radio station.

DAVIES.

Northern Area

HARTLEPOOLS.—Since our last report in the JOURNAL things have been moving in the Group. First we have been made a Branch and our joy is great; second, we have been to the Birthday Festival and had our Lamp lit. What a wonderful week end! Of the five fellows that were at Manchester only one had been to a Birthday Festival

before, and the others never realised till December 11 what a splendid show it was. They are all determined not to miss another one if possible. Since our promotion to Branch status we have moved into a new club room and have started a Boys' Club. We are to commence the New Year by running a Blind Club and have also undertaken

the organisation of a concert for the Blind School. We are arranging to hold a Dedication service in St. James's Church at 4 p.m. on January 21, when Neville Talbot, Bishop of Pretoria, will dedicate our Lamp. A Public Meeting, which the Bishop will address, will be held at 7.30 p.m. Will the Northern members of Toc H please note this?

SCOTTIE.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Christmas Day will be but a happy memory by the times these lines are read, but a glance at the programme that has to be carried out by some members up here inspires a note on it beforehand. December 25 begins with corporate Communion in the Cathedral at 7 a.m.—and some, in all probability, must rise at 5.30 a.m., on a cold, dark morn to be there. At 8 a.m. Poor Children's breakfasts at P.C.H.A.; at 3 p.m. Christmas tree at X—Hospital; at 7.30 p.m. Christmas party at the Church Army Home. This may seem strenuous, but the memory of the day will live long in the minds of those to whom this Birthday means so much. "Mac" (*Dr. J. B. MacDougall, see article on "A Northern pioneer" in the JOURNAL for April, 1925, p. 108*), is leaving us, and Wooley Sanatorium will stand to us in Toc H as a living memorial of his work in this area. We believe that Preston Hall, Maidstone, is destined in

his hands to become just such another in the South, and that is very consoling. Padre Eastburn (Philadelphia) spent a few days at Mark XVIII and was able to visit Durham and Holy Island, to his intense delight, from here; Dean Crotty (Newcastle, N.S.W.) is to visit us on February 21 and 22; while Bishop Neville Talbot (Pretoria) comes to the area in January (*see Hartlepool's news above*). Arrangements are being made for the next Northern Conference to be held in Mark XVIII on February 26 and 27; and the jobmasters of Northern Branches and Groups are to meet from time to time for a "quiet week-end" in the House to lay practical plans for dealing with the difficulties confronting Toc H in mining towns and villages up here. JOLI.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Our five delegates attending the Birthday Party brought home the Torch deep-heartedly. One thought of it as a pilgrimage, whilst another, for many months unemployed, humbly acknowledged the spiritual uplift that was his. The holiday arrangements include visiting the ships in the Tyne on Christmas morning, in conjunction with the Missions to Seamen; and the Boys' Club party on the 29th. "Lofty," twin-brother of our Secretary, is to begin the year well by taking unto himself a partner.

SCRIBBLER.

Lancashire Area

MANCHESTER: MARK IV.—By request of many friends, we are to repeat a social evening held during November. One notable feature was that every male guest assisted us in carrying back chairs to the neighbouring church room. The Lord Mayor, leaving his Chain of Office outside, came on December 2, to learn something about Toc H. Barkis acted as "Pilot," and we listened to the Tales of Talbot House. Not only the Lord Mayor, but all present, left the House knowing more about Toc H than they did before. Padre Royle (*Oogaf*) will take up the story in January. The 42nd Div. Memorial Room has been enriched with a mahogany frame,

the gift of serving members of the Division, which contains the photographs of V.C.s of the Division: it was unveiled by Major-Gen. Solly-Flood in the presence of the Prince on December 11. We are glad to welcome Padre Ted Davidson from Australia to this area. Pat Leonard sails for Sydney on January 15 from Liverpool, and a crowd will invade the city to wish him god-speed. Members have been invited to promise a weekly subscription, and envelopes have been provided which will be collected monthly. It is hoped that members will make a generous response to increase our subscription income.

C. T. H.

Mersey-Side Area

BIRKENHEAD.—Our size is slowly increasing, and our activities widening. Regular jobs like the Crippled Children's Parlour and Red Cross Hospital visiting are going ahead as usual. Amongst later efforts by members are several visits to Parkgate to entertain 40 or 50 poor convalescent boys in connection with the Liverpool Child Welfare Association,

and greeting and "seeing off" several lads from Tyne-side on their way "down under," by the Government's emigration scheme. Good luck to them! A few of us are helping the Birkenhead Boy Scouts in their efforts to raise £5,000. There is a likelihood of a boy scout troop being formed in Bromborough with Toc H as scoutmaster. HAGGIS.

South Coast Area

BEXHILL.—This has been a quiet year with us as far as the JOURNAL is concerned, but by no means an inactive year. We have lost, with much regret, the services of Ted Terry (now secretary of Lewes Group), Lionel Woods (now in British North Borneo), and Geoff Parks (now in Bedford). The outstanding event of this year was the dedication by Tubby of our Lamp, when he made a flying visit to a combined meeting of Bexhill and Hastings Branches. Our chief jobs have been organising and running a successful street collection and demonstration for a local hospital; the starting of a new scout troop, already full up and flourishing; and the opening of a boys' club which is proving to be a great success. EAGLES.

WORTHING.—The annual general meeting of the Branch produced a record attendance, and we enter upon the New Year with a good heart, and a small cash balance on the

right side. After the business had been transacted the ceremony of "Grand Light" was carried out, and the Branch Padre recited the prayers for re-dedication of the Branch. We have recently taken over the job of looking after the recreation room for blind persons, and the jobmaster looks forward with confidence to the present rate of volunteering for this work being maintained. At the December meeting the Borough Surveyor gave us a talk on the "Functions of a Municipal Council and its Officials," which proved an eye-opener to many of us. Incidentally the speaker informed us that some nine years ago he succeeded in borrowing a very unmusical piano from the old house at Pop., so we shall do our best to rope him into the more musical confraternity of Toc H. Next month we hope to be able to chronicle the birth of a lusty Group, thereby increasing our family to three sons. SCRIBE.

Wessex Area

SPETISBURY-CUM-CHARLTON. — We have just had a very helpful visit from Eastwood, our Area Secretary. Most of the West Moors Groups came over many miles to join us. There were also present a party of the Pimperne folk, who are about to form a wing to our north. A similar development is afoot to the south. At "Light" we made special remembrance of Joe Walker, one of our number who had just died as the result of an operation. His sterling character would have made him an increasing source of strength. Toc H provided an unbroken

watch over his ashes until the funeral. The scouts and cubs continue to flourish. Now that we have sent up our quota to headquarters, we propose to build a much-needed shelter as one more corporate job: the cost of materials will not be great, but the scope for skill considerable. BILL DRURY.

WOOLSTON.—Our Birthday, November 2, was celebrated on the following day. Members and friends, to the number of 80, took part in a glorified Guest-night, with Bill Drury as speaker. Armistice Day was marked

as last year, by a special Service of Remembrance in the evening. The Archdeacon of Portsmouth, the Ven. Neville Lovett, addressed a full house. All the local ministers combined with us in the effort to make it go—

and it did. Our Sunday evening mission services continue, progress being very slow, but, we hope, very sure. A series of free concerts in the same hall started on Friday, November 26.
F. L. H.

Scotland

EDINBURGH.—As our padre, George Macleod says: "We have now a new outlook," for after many ups and downs we have acquired new premises for our Headquarters in the Outlook Tower, Castle Hill. It is in close proximity to the Castle—"with many a legend grim and gory"—and is in the centre of the historic Old Town. Our members' crippled nephews are glad of Toc H, which is evidenced by their enjoyment of the monthly "Parlour" and we are glad that the Prospect Club, so excellently run by Harry Whitley, was not allowed to go west; "Candles" came to the rescue and is carrying on the good work. The Branch is gaining strength and wisdom and our weekly meetings will shortly be doubled, and before long our "digs" will be open every night.

JOCK.

The "prospectus" of Edinburgh's new Branch Headquarters, headed "The Outlook Tower, Castle Esplanade, Edinburgh, December 14, 1926," and signed by Evan McCandlish (Chairman) and L. C. Greig (Secretary), and George F. Macleod (Padre) is too jolly a document to be withheld from the wider circle of the whole Toc H family. It occupies two foolscap Roneo sheets, but we give it in its entirety.—ED.:—

"Toc H Edinburgh has moved up a place in every sense of the term. It has walked up the old High Street from Whitehorse Close in the Canongate to the Outlook Tower on the Castle Esplanade. On the way it raised its hat to St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral and to John Knox's House, paying its respect to all that is true in both. It bowed its head at the Canongate War Memorial, thick with the names in smallest type, built of the golden pennies of the poor. It lingered beneath the Balcony of Moray

House where Montrose once lingered on his way to 'death'—(you remember Argyll, who plotted his end, was on the Balcony supported by two painted ladies: packed in the narrow road beneath stood the crowd, silent for all the money he had promised them if only they would jeer; the melancholy stillness was broken by a devil's laugh from Argyll and a titter from the women. Montrose of the lovely heart stopped upon his way, calmly looked up into the face of his enemy and uttered not a word: and Argyll, white as death, fainted in the arms of his paramours. . . . And so Montrose moved on to his execution and to Life; and Argyll lived on in death). It walked in the footsteps of Charles Edward, whom some have called Pretender; of 'Jamie,' whom others called King; and of the Covenanters—champions of causes lost and won; good men all. And it halted at the Outlook Tower. A stone thrown West will hit the castle drawbridge, a pebble North, the Home of Alan Ramsay, and two Mills' bombs lobbed east and south would shatter the windows of the General Assembly Halls of the Scottish Churches—though that is far from the intention.

"Professor Geddes converted a sixteenth-century house into 'The Outlook Tower,' to get more Edinburgh folk to look out upon Edinburgh (there is a camera obscura on the roof) and see what they would do about it. And a great deal have the 'Outlook' people done. They have pleaded the cause of open spaces and influenced the designs of buildings that must needs go up. They have reclaimed waste corners in dark streets and made there gardens for children. Where the thorn was, the fir tree has come up. And they have amassed in their towering house a great library of books of Edinburgh

and of planning, of history and of art. But most of this was pre-war. For when the War came, all their best gardeners and their keenest students left their visions and went to the waste corners of the earth . . . and most of them found the Open Spaces. It needed little argument therefore when Toc H staked its claim within its walls. For a song, they have given us a room (surrounded by books) which will be open every night. And we hope to give them gardeners and 'planners' and 'builders' to brighten the outlook of Edinburgh's growing needs in every sphere of her activity.

"This constitutes a challenge to Toc H. During the winter we have been growing; we have been holding regular and successful entertainments for crippled children. I know at least one boys' club that would have closed down but for Toc H; but if we are to pull our weight we must have more men who are prepared to become members, and more members who are prepared to stand in. Look at the list of the intentions for January and February. We have you on one or other of our lists, so will you look up and look in to help us to look out. We primarily

want to be strong enough not merely to have the room at our disposal every week-night (we have that already) but also to have at least a few in it every night, so that when English and Canadian and Australian and South African and Indian and American members come to Edinburgh they can be assured of meeting men of their own kith and kin; and being shown the Balcony of Moray House where Montrose lingered: where love once conquered hate."

GLASGOW.—December 8, 1926, will long be remembered as a "red-letter" day by fifty of the poorest of Glasgow kiddies who were entertained to tea, games, &c. The "Uncles" deserve great praise for their efforts, but our special thanks are due to the firms who supplied huge quantities of "grub," and also to the owner-drivers who gave their cars and their services so willingly. It was a great night, but we cannot rest on our laurels, so we have appointed Jack Teaz as jobmaster to keep the branch alive in "Service." The Delegates who attended the Birthday Party are grateful to all the members of Mark IV for their hospitality.

Ireland, Northern Section

BELFAST.—We have had Padre Sawbridge for thirteen days and would like to keep him. He had seven different hosts, addressed eighteen gatherings and conversed with all sorts and conditions. There were three Branch meetings, with an average attendance of 33, and two informal receptions. He did six things—(i) he left behind him *Toc H in Ireland*—with the promise of His Grace the Governor as President of the Northern Section; (ii) he gave us some idea of the *camaraderie* of an ordinary live Branch; and (iii) exemplified the spirit of Toc H; (iv) his re-organisation proposals should make it possible for us to grow, and (v) he established many new contacts; (vi) he found us verging on middle-age and left us comparatively youthful. His meeting at Carrickfergus showed the possibilities of a provincial town; five days later, and a

Rushlight from Carrickfergus was in Manchester. Though we have no Area Secretary or Padre, we shall probably now form fresh Groups ourselves, and two "implosions" are already planned. The financial arrangements proposed should make it possible for us to contribute more than the minimum to Headquarters. Sawbridge's quiet methods were most effective and several said, "We have never seen anyone like him before." Moore, Stuart (Scouts) and P. Riddell represented the Branch at Manchester; Morrison and Miss Legg (L.W.H.) went from Carrickfergus. On December 14 we were entertained by Reformatory boys at the Branch Rooms, and are now taking a fortnight's holiday. Have we discovered a new title for officers? We now have two "Boatswains," and the dictionary definition suggests possibilities.

PAT.

News from Overseas Branches and Groups

AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE.—*Extract from a letter to Tubby from a member of the "Weeds" Group, dated 17.10.26:* "Since my last letter the Weeds have had quite a lot of ups and downs, but they're not dead yet. We are a very small Group now, but I don't think that 'Men Regiment,' as you called us that night in Capitol House has let you down. It is quite true that we have had some quarrels inside the Group, but it was because we didn't know each other: we haven't attained full knowledge yet, but we are on our way. I never realised the full force of the parable of the Sower and the Seed until thinking over Group matters not so long ago. There were chaps who were frightfully keen while you were here, but who dropped off soon afterwards. Others got into places where the Toc H badge brought sneers, and they too died away. Others again endured for a season, but they were annual blooms and not perennials. But the rearguard—the Brigade of Guards, so to speak—is holding its ground. We have been back to the last lines several times, but our August, 1918, offensive is due to start soon; in fact the preliminary barrage is going over now. It has often struck me what a strong resemblance Toc H has to the early Christian Church. Our Group teas are like the Love Feast where the master and

slave were equal. We have our struggles and trials as they did, and we have our victories too. But the greatest thing of all is that we have our Peters and our Pauls as well. . . ."

Extract from a letter to Tubby from "Scotty," another member of the "Weeds" Group, dated 7.11.26: "We have started a club for all Toc H, and we are renting a room in Howey House which is behind Capitol House. Our idea is that the Groups (*i.e.*, the five Melbourne Groups — 'Weeds,' 'Sautes,' 'Lunars,' 'Brunos' and 'Grits') are drifting apart, and by having a Central Club we can meet and fraternise together oftener, also a place where a member such as the Governor may drop in and not identify himself with any special Group. . . . It is open all day and every evening for any members to write letters, read or have a cup of tea. . . . We have also been able to get hold of a number of street sweepers and form them into a Club. These boys meet on Friday nights, about twenty of them. Their ages range between 18 and 21 years. They are rough, Tubby, but such dear lads. Major Officer has promised to come and talk to them, and others are taking an interest in them too. About ten of them came to a Toc H meeting to hear Lt.-Col. Davidson. There is every promise of them becoming good Toc H members."

CANADA

MONTREAL (*Some readers may remember that the original Montreal Group was promoted in 1923 and given a Lamp, but that—on its foundations proving to be insecure—it was deprived of Branch status by the Central Council in 1925 and its Lamp taken back. Since then a Group has been working quietly and steadily at the task of reconstruction, and it is with a special welcome that we receive their first news for the JOURNAL, in time to wish them a truly happy New Year—ED.*).—After a period of considerable difficulty and tribulation Toc H in Montreal has taken on a new lease of life.

In all humility, but with faith and hope, knowing that in Toc H difficulties are rarely insurmountable, we look forward to the New Year with great confidence. At present we number only seven, but have hopes of adding new members and friends as we gradually feel our way forward. There should exist great scope for Toc H in this city, but a thorough appreciation of local conditions is essential before we can expect real progress. We ask for the prayers of the Family to the end that we may use such opportunities as are before us. A hearty welcome will be accorded

to any member passing through Montreal.

BILL.

VANCOUVER.—Our efforts in conjunction with those of the Western Institute for the Blind have resulted in \$2,000 being collected for the purchase of radios for the blind in this Province. At present we are busily engaged in a drive instituted by the Salvation Army to raise \$100,000 for a Maternity Hospital here. Two of our men are on the Central

Executive of the drive, and the others are doing organised canvassing. We recently held another successful concert party for the blind and are now in full charge of the programmes for all their meetings. By the appointment of an honorary Executive and by obtaining a little quiet publicity we hope to add weight to our appeal for a Mark. Extension work is being held in abeyance for a short while.

JIM.

CEYLON

COLOMBO.—On Sunday, October 9, a Concert was organised by John Young at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute. The hall was crowded by members of the crews of the *Effingham* and *Enterprise*, who were ashore after pay day, and formed a most appreciative audience to the programme of songs and humorous dialogues that composed the evening's entertainment. The Scots Padre told some excellent stories, while several of the Navy personnel contributed to the proceedings. On October 13 the Colombo Group assembled for a supper and lecture at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute. After the initiation of one member, the party proceeded with supper, and then to Mr. Wait's lecture on "Birds in Colombo," which was a delight to all. Considerable work has been done by Toc H in helping with the Scout movement, especially with the Prison Troop of Rovers. This troop has now been officially recognised by Imperial Scout Headquarters, the first of its kind to be so acknowledged. Contributions in the shape of stories are sent from Toc H to *Outdoor Life*—the Scout periodical paper. The regular monthly entertainment was given at Welikade Prison on the 25th. Fifteen members and visitors were present in the theatre to hear Dr. Ellison, Registrar of the Ceylon Medical College, lecture on "Wonders of the Sky," a subject that held the interest of his audience of prisoners throughout the course of the address. Tubby's brother, who passed through Colombo during the month, was met by several members of the Group, who, after 7.30 a.m. service

at St. Michael's, foregathered with him at the Galle Face Hotel for breakfast and a yarn about Toc H. It was a great pity that notice of his arrival was so short, as we should like to have seen a lot more of him than was possible under the circumstances.

KANDY.—*Extracts from a letter to Tubby from Gerald Streetfeild of Trinity College, Kandy, Group Secretary, dated 3.11.26:* "Our Boys' Club for homeless street boys, which Alec Paterson urged me to start when he was here a year ago, has been open now for two months, and twenty boys seem to appreciate it, while Toc H members are beginning to visit it more frequently. Except that articulate conversation is impossible to many of us who know not the lingo, I feel, on entering the Club, quite like entering our Trinity Club in Stratford (*i.e., the Trinity College, Oxford, Club in East London*) or one of the Bermondsey Clubs. They are jolly fellows and pretty keen. Chiefly through Pilcher we have been able to make a great change in Kandy Prison, and here Toc H and Trinity College work together a good deal. The English-speaking prisoners are now allowed frequent games, use of the Toc H library, and have educational classes and visits from some of Trinity and Toc H. We are getting a Rover Troop started in the jail. . . . Our links with India seem to increase and deepen in significance." The writer goes on to give news of various Toc H folk in his parts—"the five members of Toc H on our staff (*at the College*), now joined by a sixth, Harry Withey, of Lincoln,

Oxford, and for a time of Sidcup Group"; "Zephyr" Knight, "a valuable addition to Colombo Toc H," whom the writer "first met on one of the Toc H Pilgrimages to Ypres in September, 1921"; E. B. Alexander and Dowbiggin (Inspector of Police) whose "return to the Island should strengthen Colombo

Toc H: I hear they have both seen something of Toc H at home"; "we are lucky enough to have Basil Jackson, late of Mark VII and a Student Movement secretary, coming here on November 15 to join the staff of the Training Colony for catechists and teachers at Peradenge."

NEWFOUNDLAND

ST. JOHNS.—*First news of beginnings in the "oldest Colony" is contained in a letter to Tubby from Eric Holden, dated 15.11.26:—*"Dear Tubby,—Among the many thousands that passed through your hands in the Old House in Pop. you may possibly remember a young Lance-Corporal of the Newfoundland Regiment who signed the Visitors' Book and was often in attendance at the little Chapel in the upper storey. I feel sure that it must be most gratifying to you to witness the remarkable growth, extending to all parts of the world, of the seeds of inspiration sown in that little oasis in Pop. in those never-to-be-forgotten days. After returning to Newfoundland in 1919 I was more than pleased to receive an announcement that Toc H had decided to carry on and use its influence in making a real peace, which mere 'scraps of paper' cannot achieve. Again, you may possibly remember a rather dark night in September, 1922, when a young colonel blew in to Mark II, shouted for Tubby in the usual Toc H Pop. style, and finally found him in his room as busy and as jovial as ever. I stayed in the House that night, but unfortunately time would not permit me to go into Toc H affairs as closely as I should have wished, as I was due at one of the London hospitals next day to have a piece of shrapnel removed. My next link with Toc H was through meeting our present padre, Rev. T. B. Elliott, C.F., who came to one of our city parishes from Ireland in 1924. For various reasons nothing further was done until August of this year (1926), when Sir Alfred Pickford visited this country in the interests of the Scout Movement. Padre Elliott then called a meeting,

and it was decided to form a Toc H Group. Sir Alfred Pickford very kindly promised to provide a Rushlight. The holiday period intervened and it was not until some two months ago that we were able to get down to regular weekly meetings, with a view to qualifying for recognition as a Group. Not wishing to lose any more time we immediately began to work, and Toc H, to date, has assisted the community here by doing the following jobs:—(1) Securing ladies for selling poppies on the Great War Veterans' Day in aid of disabled soldiers; (2) recommending to the authorities certain steps with regard to stoppage of traffic on Armistice Day, thus making for a better observance of the Two Minutes' Silence; (3) assisting the Padre with clerical work in his parish; (4) arousing the interest of citizens in civic affairs by having the City Clerk address Toc H on November 5, our first Guest-night, and having his address published in the daily papers. Having progressed thus far, the Executive decided to wire Headquarters for a Rushlight, and to request His Excellency the Governor to conduct the Initiation ceremony on November 14, our Thanksgiving Day. . . . This ceremony took place last night in the Y.M.C.A. here, which, through the kindness of the Secretary, Mr. A. A. Smith, we are temporarily using as a meeting-place. Nineteen members were initiated, and there are two, who were absent through illness, for initiation next meeting. The only other Foundation Member in Newfoundland, the Rev. G. H. Maidment, is situated in Bonne Bay on the other side of the Island, and therefore cannot take part in our activities here in St. John's. The

privilege of making the link with the original House was therefore mine, as the sole Foundation Member present, and you will readily realise the pleasure it gave me to be an instrument of Toc H on this great occasion. . . . The launching of Toc H here has been made possible solely through the efforts of Padre Elliott. . . . Our greatest difficulty here is in overcoming sectarian prejudices; however, the progress made to date in this direction is most encouraging. Only an institution with

the broad general policy of Toc H activities could dare to tackle this problem. . . . Eventually I have no doubt but we shall be in a position to establish permanent quarters here in St. Johns, and there is no reason whatsoever why Toc H, in time, should not be extended to the other towns of the Island, all of which contain several ex-Service men—the nucleus necessary for starting a Group. . . . With grateful remembrance of your work for the troops in the Salient.”

SOUTH AFRICA.

(As should be expected the enthusiasm of the newly-founded Groups in South Africa is producing a good deal of news—partly in letters direct to the JOURNAL, partly in correspondence with Harry Ellison, and partly through the “Toc H South Africa Monthly News-sheet,” Number 1 (November, 1926) of which has reached us: it consists of 18 typed quarto pages, the forerunners, we hope, of a printed Journal to be. A selection from these three sources of news follows.—ED.)

Transvaal.

AUCKLAND PARK.—“The Merry Boys” are busily running a Boys’ Club in Brixton, and have undertaken the management of a troop of Scouts and a pack of Cubs in Melville and a troop of Scouts in Brixton. In addition they are busy with saws, planes and hammers at the G.D.A. Hostel for girls. Some of their men spend their spare hours gardening at the Children’s Aid Home, and another party are building cupboards for the Children Guild Cottage Home. *(News-sheet.)*

BELGRAVIA.—The proceeds of tennis tournaments, dances, billiard tournaments and swimming galas have gone to two local charities, which were in dire need of assistance. Scout officers have been supplied to meet all requirements in the district. . . . The “star turn” was the outing arranged at Grasmere at the end of September when 38 boys, who had never had a holiday before, spent the Michaelmas holiday in the country. The farm was lent by a sympathetic gentleman and most of the food was given by business houses and individuals in Johannesburg. The L.W.H. sent out two ladies to assist in the cooking, etc., and Central sent along a man to give a hand. The farm was an ideal place,

for it was complete with ample sleeping accommodation, swings, maypole and swimming baths. . . . A grand sports meeting, extending over two days, was held. . . . As a result of the outing the average increase in weight was 2 lbs. . . . The jobmaster’s work has become so onerous as to necessitate the appointment of an assistant. *(News-sheet.)*

BENONI.—Boy Scouts are being helped. . . . The Group have contributed materially to the reduction of unemployment in the locality, and as many as 32 men were found employment in the course of a single month. *(News-sheet.)*

JOHANNESBURG, CENTRAL.—Jobs: laying out a garden for the Bethal Mission, running Fordsburg Boys’ Club, furnishing half-a-dozen or so Scout officers, furnishing service to the Dean’s shelter for men, hospital visiting, furnishing assistance at Deaf and Dumb Association’s Club, corresponding with other Groups and lonely fellows on the veldt. The whole Group recently acted as ushers, ticket sellers, chuckers-out, etc., at a lecture in aid of the Railway Mission funds. One of the most important jobs undertaken was the assisting of a youth addicted to “dagga.”

smoking to find a job, and his eventually giving up the habit; the Group is now trying to solve the problem of how to cure boys of this habit, as about a hundred have been found in Johannesburg who are in the grip of the drug. Recently a combined meeting of L.W.H. and Central was held, when Padre Buckingham Baker spoke on the Birthday Festival. (*News-sheet.*)

JOHANNESBURG, N.E. DISTRICT.—The Group has in hand arrangements for running a bridge drive and a tennis tournament in order to provide funds for giving a Christmas dinner to all the poor people in Norwood. Other jobs in the offing include a concert to the Boys' Hostel, Norwood, on December 5. Hospital visiting is quite a big job with N.E. (*News-sheet.*)

JOHANNESBURG, S. DISTRICT.—The last Group approved by the Transvaal Executive is just beginning to settle down to business. (*News-sheet.*)

KRUGERSDORP.—The Group has been engaged on slum work, and has been talking

about raising funds to equip and run a Boys' Club. (*News-sheet.*)

PRETORIA.—Hospital visiting has been tackled; Scouts are being helped and it is whispered that the Group is going to start a new troop. (*News-sheet.*)

SPRINGS.—The first job the Group had was to make the necessary furniture for their meeting-place. It has been responsible for bringing into being a troop of Scouts, which uses its Club-room for meetings, etc. Funds have also been raised for local charities and the Scouts. (*News-sheet.*)

YEOVILLE.—The Group has been deprived of its jobmaster, Edward Jones, through his being appointed Secretary to an Industrial Commission set up by the Labour Department under the Conciliation Act. The Group has been engaged on many schemes—helping the Scouts, taking old people to see the Johannesburg Birthday Pageant, furnishing service to the Dean of Johannesburg's Men's Shelter, running concert parties, etc. Their complaint is that they cannot find enough to do! (*News-sheet.*)

Eastern Province

KEISKAMA HOEK.—*Bert Oldfield contributes a long letter to the News-sheet, dated 12.10.26:* "As the starting-point of Toc H in South Africa and the first official Branch I am afraid very great things are expected of us. Jobs rise up on every hand. . . . We meet fortnightly at present, but are unfortunate in not having a fixed meeting-place. So far we have managed to carry on by meeting in the houses of members, but now our family has outgrown the rooms. . . . As we have three separate Church bodies represented in the Branch, it has been decided that, in the absence of a club-room, the Lamp shall rest in the church of each denomination for three months of the year. We are hopeful of obtaining members from another denomination before the end of the year, and have therefore left three months for them. Since Padre Ellison's visit, which was all too short,

the Lamp has rested in the Mission Church of St. Matthew. On Sunday, October 3, the Branch Chairman, 'Jobs' and Secretary journeyed to Keiskama Hoek in order to hand the Lamp over to two other members to deposit in Christ Church, the old Garrison Church of the Kaffir War days." The writer goes on to describe how the Lamp, escorted by the Banner, was handed over in the Church with the question *What is this?* and the answer *The Lamp of Maintenance* and the other questions and answers of the Initiation ceremony.

SOMERSET EAST.—Eight full members (initiating six more next month, we hope); about fifteen probationary members. . . . Jobs are few and far between at present, but we have hopes of a busy future. It is our aim to get Pearston (29 miles away) to start a Group: there are some keen spirits there. (*News-sheet.*)

Western Province

CAPE TOWN.—*Extract from a letter to H.Q. from a senior member of the Central Group, dated 18.11.26:* "We have a meeting every week (Wednesday) at the Tea for Two Rooms. . . . We have on the roll at the Central 83 and the attendance last night was about 50. I do not know how the other Groups are getting on—Sea Point, Claremont and False Bay. . . . A few weeks ago jobs were taken on by volunteers. Some visit the Old and the New Somerset Hospitals. With some five or six others, I have undertaken one night a week at the Seamen's Institute. We have now

been there twice. The first time the Padre there had in reserve some talent he could depend on, but we Toc H members did our share. Last week the Padre phoned me that he could not be present. . . . but I told him not to worry, that we would not let him down. I took charge and we had plenty of help: we could have kept going for another two hours. After each of these meetings we adjourned for a very short service to the chapel in the building. . . . There are some splendid fellows in this Movement: it is a real privilege to know them."

Natal

DURBAN: *The "Week-end Advertiser," Durban, of December 11, devoted half a page—right across eight columns, with five pictures—to an excellent summary of Toc H, in anticipation of the Birthday Festival in Durban that evening. The event itself is reported at length in the "Natal Mercury" of December 13:* "A congregation of nearly 200 gathered in St. Paul's Church, Durban, on Saturday at the very impressive Birthday service of the Toc H movement." The Rushlight was lit by Padre Lawson, and the Silence kept. "It was extremely impressive, both by reason of the nature of the service, and of the number present, for those not connected with Toc H could not but feel surprised at the strength of the movement in Durban." Representatives from Isipingo, Hillary, Pinetown, and Verulam, as well as of Durban Group were present, and members of the L.W.H. "The service was conducted by Padres Lawson, Williams, Maddock, Cox and Smythe. . . . Padre Maddock delivered an inspiring and thoughtful address. . . . The congregation then went in procession to the War Memorial in the Town Gardens, where a floral cross was placed on the memorial, and the members filed reverently past. An enjoyable social gathering was held at the Model Dairy Restaurant, Field Street, at which an impressive ceremony of re-dedication was con-

ducted by Padre Lawson." The reporter amusingly adds, "A friend of mine who was deputed to 'cover' the Toc H Birthday ceremony on Saturday night, spent practically the whole evening in the company of several ministers of religion. Far from this proving a damper to his evening's enjoyment, it heightened it. . . . Despite the presence of so many 'Jonahs,' the social was a great success, and the life of the party was the Rev. G. Williams, who was generally addressed as 'Padre Bill.' But why call them Jonahs." (Can Tunbridge Wells, Sheffield or Birmingham picture "Billy" Williams in the role of "Jonah"?—Ed.)

LADYSMITH.—*The Secretary writes to the Editor of the JOURNAL, enclosing also a long newspaper cutting headed "Toc H definitely launched," describing the first Guest-night:*—Uncle Harry visited "Siegetown" (as Ladysmith is familiarly called) towards the end of July, but was unfortunate enough to strike a day when there were counter-attractions; in consequence he only had some dozen in his first audience. From that dozen, however, has sprung a very enthusiastic Group, members at present numbering only five, keen followers about 30; of these a few will soon enter the ranks of both the active and general membership. It was in September last that Padre "Billy" Williams visited our then

unapproved Group for the first Guest-night, in order to initiate the first members; at the same time we had Colonel C. H. G. Moore, C.M.G., D.S.O., as a guest, who gave a very interesting talk on the Younghusband Expedition to the Forbidden City of Lhasa in 1903-4, of which he was a member. Since that first Guest-night we have been improving. We meet on Thursdays in a small hall placed at our disposal by our jobmaster. Our "blokes" get together under the conductorship of Padre Venables and all join in negro chanties, old part songs, etc. During the evening business is interspersed thus with pleasure. In regard to jobs, we have no boys' hostels, or anything in that line so we are somewhat handicapped. The Group has offered its services to the local bodies at any time help may be required; meanwhile we do such "good turns" as may come along. Papers and books are sent to the local sanatorium (R.C. Convent) and are much appreciated. It has been decided in Toc H here to form a Rover Troop of Scouts and to centre a great deal of interest in the Scouting movement generally, for since Gen. Baden Powell paid a visit to Ladysmith there has been a keen interest taken; indeed we are informed by our Jobmaster that some poor Dutch kiddies have expressed their desire to join—but they cannot afford the equipment. Ladysmith is not a rich centre, and therefore we shall have to work hard to get funds to

help round; several ideas have been put forward and we are endeavouring to get busy, and hope to give more and better news next time.

F. E. ADKINS.

PIETERMARITZBURG: *Extract from a letter to Harry Ellison from R. F. Courtier, Group Secretary, dated 15.12.26*: "We had a really wonderful show on Saturday the 11th. We met at the Town Hall at 6.15 p.m., fellows with cars giving lifts to fellows without, and proceeded to St. George's, the old Garrison Church, where a real Toc H service was held by the Padre. We then repaired to Christies for supper. The attendance register was sent round and fifty-three fellows were found to be present. (A few were unable to come to supper, so that there were really, I suppose, nearly sixty fellows in the church). It was a most cheery show, and we were all frightfully pleased about it. After supper we proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year. . . . the most notable event being the absolutely unanimous vote (with musical honours) returning "Mengie" (Dr. Mengershausen, a German South African) to the chair. The elections were over about 9 p.m., and we finished off with a sing-song which lasted till about 10 p.m. Altogether a most memorable day. The Padre will probably tell you that there were about a dozen C. of E. members in his church at 8 a.m. on Sunday morning."

Orange Free State and Griqualand West

Extract from a letter to Harry Ellison from Harry Devis, Secretary of Bloemfontein Group, dated 25.11.26: "We had our first Free State and G.W. Conference last weekend at Kimberley. The local group proved excellent hosts. On the Saturday night I initiated the first members for Kimberley, and on Sunday we had a short Conference, when the status of General Branch members and the formation of new Groups were the chief matters discussed. We have outlined a formidable plan of attack on about a dozen towns. The

New Year, we hope, will show Toc H Free State and G.W. a very big family."

BLOEMFONTEIN.—The visit of Padre Ellison met with a fair, though not overwhelming, success. A Group was formed, and members to the number of 20 full probationary members and 10 General members were enrolled. Attendances at meetings have dropped since the start was made, but this, in a sense, was to be expected. . . . Hospital visiting and Scouting have been

the main tasks which members have done. A patrol of Rovers is in process of formation. Our first Guest-night was unfortunate—we didn't have any guests! But perhaps they will soon begin to rally round. Our weekly meetings have been good fun. We have sung rather badly. . . . Later events have

shown that the spirit with which we started has not really fallen away. On October 27 we had a really splendid Guest-night: our first five members were initiated, and John Crawford spoke on "Charity Organisation," and this was followed by songs, choruses and conjuring tricks. (*News-sheet*).

Rhodesia

SALISBURY.—*Extract from a letter to Harry Ellison from T. E. Beck, dated 22.11.26:*

"The meetings, after your first, dropped down to an attendance of between thirty and forty, and these appear to be all 'stickers' of the first water, which is rather wonderful as some of our meetings in the past have not been too bright; but this is all over and we are now busily campaigning for a brighter Toc H, so far as Salisbury is concerned. Jobs have been greatly to the fore, and at present the Hospital is visited regularly, and, what is more, the visits are greatly appreciated; Boy Scouts are instructed in (I hope) the way that they should tread; youngsters at the local Orphanage are taken out by car for an airing weekly—and the poor little chaps look as if they need it; and some local men have actually been placed in full time jobs. Also the L.W.H. have formed a sort of 'Society of God-mothers' which works in with another local Orphanage. Speaking of the Toc Emmas, they have been having most successful meetings and are most enthusiastic, and we have now got into touch with them and, I believe, are to look forward to a most interesting Guest-night in a couple of weeks' time. Certain Toc H members, in conjunction with other societies, have combined to form a Debating Club, the idea being that 'Unity is Strength' (did you ever translate the Union's motto?). . . . Before I close, if any of your home members feel they'd like an interesting and adventurous life, why not recommend them to enquire at London Wall re recruiting for the British South Africa Police, to which I have the honour to belong?"

Hugo Watson, another member, writes to

Harry Ellison by the same mail, mentioning visits he has paid to the Groups at Bulawayo, Gwelo and Umtali. He ends:—"Salisbury is going very strong, male and female attendances keep up to 40-50; jobs fairly abundant. . . . We want a House awfully, and will get one anon."

UMTALI.—We are not now so numerically strong as we were at Padre Ellison's preliminary meeting, but we have now got down to the "stickers"; our "Emergency Exit" has been properly used, and yet we cannot complain of any real numerical weakness. . . . It may well be that we were too keen, in a superficial way, at the outset. We thought and talked a great deal about "jobs," and it was only as we settled down that it became apparent that our first job must be to set our own house in order, to get to know one another, and to get the measure of our capacity for the work which we hope we shall be able to undertake in the near future. We did tackle one task, but our success was not notable. . . . Already we have some smaller and less pretentious projects on hand. We have had our business meetings. Sometimes we have talked of things which matter, and on other occasions we have chatted about some things that don't matter a great deal. Both kinds of talk have their value, but I am not quite sure that the second type is not the most useful—it must, of course, be well seasoned with the first—in the early days of a Toc H Group. We have had just one night with a piano, some old choruses and some good solo efforts too, but we are going to have some more. Such nights are responsible for that old Army feeling of cheerful friendliness. . . ." (*News-sheet*).

SOUTH AMERICA

Another welcome addition to the world's Toc H magazines has appeared in the shape of The Mark, the monthly organ of Toc H South America. Volume I, Number I, October,

1926, contains sixteen pages, in an orange cover on which is a map of South America with a Lamp and Rushlight. All good wishes to this ambitious venture!—ED.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEW YORK.—Mark II held its first initiation on the evening of Armistice Day, when 16 men entered into membership. The ceremony was most impressive and brought to the observance of Armistice Day a keener sense of remembrance as well as a fresh token of service. Pryor Grant conducted the initiation, and the Rev. W. B. Lusk spoke on the significance of the occasion. Seth Pierrepont read that fine thing out of the October JOURNAL called "Back to the Salient." The four points of the compass were explained by Mr. Wolf. Of visitors there were many, and among them the Ridgefield contingent was notable. After the ceremony, a jollification reinforced with ice-cream and cake produced the right sort of results. The Guest-nights are by this time fast established and really worth while. We have had Father Bull of the Community of the Resurrection and the Rev. Ambrose Reeves of the Students' Christian Movement among the speakers. Padre Grant, much to everyone's delight, will carry greetings from Mark II, U.S.A., to the Birthday Festival. During his absence, Hugh Ketchum, now in the States, will hold the fort here. A petition for a Lamp has gone forward.

H. McB. H.

WASHINGTON: *Extracts from a letter to the Editor from Hugh Ketchum, dated 15.11.26:* "Our last three Wednesday evening Guest-nights have been most successful, and at least one of them was really inspiring to all. It was a talk by the Rev. Z. B. Phillips, Rector of the Church of the Epiphany, who gave us a scholarly review of some great movements in history, showed what they were based upon, why they became great, and what caused their downfall. He then applied his summary to the Toc H

movement, and appealed to us all to study history for the light that it throws on the present and the future. He has every faith that Toc H can become the biggest thing of our age. The other two nights were given over to the question "Has Christianity failed?" and were not only interesting because of the discussion that was provoked—discussion by men of the most varied outlooks, representing at least five religious denominations—but also on account of the fact that they have been the means of our getting to know one another better and of our getting to know visitors who had hitherto come to Guest-nights and said nothing. Armistice Day was the occasion of an all-day pilgrimage to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier out at Arlington, a height overlooking Washington and the valley of the Potomac River. Toc H members and probationers had subscribed towards a wreath, and seven of us were able to be present to lay it. . . . Corporate Communion is held the first Sunday of each month in the House (Mark I). Our new cellar chapel is well under way and will be in use before the end of the week. . . . We had the House full of seniors from the Boys' Club across the street on Saturday night. One of our probationers is full-time over there, and the club manager is a Canadian—so very cordial relations exist. Scoutmasters have been frequenting us also of late, and Toc H Rovers are under consideration. . . . Pryor (Grant) writes that they had a corking Guest-night (at the New York House) on Armistice night, with about fifty there, and held their first initiations. Princeton is making a beginning, we hear from Padre Lusk, and the Norfolk people are waiting for us to make an imminent implosion. There are also faint signs of life in Baltimore."

HOUSES, BRANCHES AND GROUPS OF TOC H

A. In the British Isles

Houses

MARK	I.—23 Queen's Gate Gardens, S.W.7.	MARK	XI.—44 Princess Road, Leicester.
"	II.—123 St. George's Square, S.W.1.	"	XII.—Shaw Royd, Halifax, Yorks.
"	III.—148 York Road, London, S.E.1	The Brothers' House—119 Kennington Park Road, S.E.11.	
"	IV.—Gartness, Victoria Park, Manchester.	MARK	XIV.—1 Eccles Old Road, Salford.
"	V.—The Firs, Bassett, Southampton.	"	XV.—31 The Common, Woolwich, S.E.18.
"	VI.—77 Clifford Street, Lozells, Birmingham	"	XVI.—Redville, High Street, Swindon.
"	VII.—15 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.	"	XVII.—The Old Parsonage, Itchen, Hants.
"	VIII.—Christ Church Road, Sheffield.	"	XVIII.—Greystoke, Grainger Park Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
"	IX.—29 St. Paul's Road, Clifton.	"	XXII.—3 Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, S.E.16.
"	X.—Clarendon House, Hull.		
	HOSTEL.—Haileybury House, Durham Row, Stepney, E.1.		
	HOSTEL.—16 Rutland Street, Hulme, Manchester.		
	HOSTEL FOR SEA-GOING BOYS.—Talbot House, Orchard Lane, Southampton.		

Branches and Groups

The names of BRANCHES are printed in capitals, and the numbers in brackets refer to the order of foundation; the names of GROUPS are in italics. Branches and Groups marked (C.C.) are members of the Toc H Countrymen's Council

London Federation.

Federation Secretary: R. R. Calkin, 1 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.

Assistant Secretary: H. Eastwood, same address.

Padre (N. and E. Area): Rev. A. Birkmire, 27 Belsize Square, N.W.3

" (*Southern Area*): Rev. T. C. C. Brochner, 119 Kennington Park Road, S.E.11.

" (*Western Area*): Rev. L. G. Appleton, 15 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

MARK I. (1) T. Risdell Smith, 23 Queen's Gate Gardens, S.W.7.

MARK II. (14) F. G. Brooks, 123 St. George's Square, S.W.1.

MARK III. (21) F. H. Flower, 148 York Road, S.E.1.

MARK VII. (43) P. C. Toy, 15 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

BARNET (10) W. H. Nicklin, 2 Station Terrace, New Barnet.

BATTERSEA AND CLAPHAM (111) C. O. Leadbitter, 69, Overstrand Mansions, S.W.11.

Barking H. R. Bennett, 21 Netherfield Gardens.

Bellingham L. W. Richards, 20 Grangemill Way, S.E.6.

BERMONDSEY (60) C. G. Turtle, Mark XXII, 1 Jamaica Road, S.E.16.

Brixton F. Fryett, 21 St. Margaret's Road, Brockley, S.E.4.

CHelsea (84) C. Wright, 45 Redburn Street, S.W.3.

Chigwell E. Birch, 7 Forest Terrace, Chigwell, Essex.

CRoyDON (70) E. W. Wilson, 7 North End.

Deptford J. A. Monk, 170 Lewisham High Road, S.E.4.

EALING (87) F. A. Wallis, 1 King's Avenue, W.5.

Edmonton E. A. Tatum-Hume, 16 Cornwallis Road, N.19.

Eltham W. M. Schofield, 1 The Grove, Eltham, S.E.9.

Enfield S. F. Dovey, Hadley Hall, Park Road, New Barnet.

Esher P. M. G. Talbot, Glenhurst, Esher, Surrey.

Golders Green R. S. Pearson, 57 Templar's Avenue, N.W.11.

Hackney A. C. Williamson, 49 Cotesbach Road, Clapton, E.5.

HAMMERSMITH (89) P. E. Curnock, 30 Avenue Gardens, Acton, W.3.

HAMPSTEAD (120) C. Woolston, 13 Llanvanor Road, N.W.2.

Hillgate I. G. Scott, 29 Fortnam Road, N. 19.

Hoxton G. A. W. Walters, 6 Warwick Terrace, Hadley, Herts.

ILFORD (50) R. Welcomme, 58 Mayfair Avenue.

ISLINGTON (42) H. J. T. Ford, 81 Verbury Road, Tufnell Park, N.19.

KENNINGTON (58) H. C. Jeaffreson, 165 Cholmley Gardens, N.W.6.

KINGSTON & SURBITON (94) L. Lodge, 67 Durlston Road, Kingston-on-Thames.

LEWISHAM (65) W. F. Cross, 75 Brookdale Road, S.E.6.

MAIDA VAlF (71) M. O. Tribe, Regent House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

NORWOOD (98) W. E. Robinson, "Hensill," Panmure Road, S.E.26.

Richmond L. W. Ellen, 115 St. Leonard's Road, E. Sheen, S.W.14.

Romford A. H. Corvyn, "Welwyn," Walden Way, Hornchurch.

SIDCUP (72)
Southend
Southgate
Stepney
 STREATHAM (102)
Sydenham
 "The Cadies' group"
Tower Hill
Twickenham
Uxbridge
Wandsworth
 WEST HAM (104)
Weybridge
Willesden
 WIMBLEDON (73)
 WOOD GREEN (119)
 WOOLWICH (74)

K. M. Jack, "Springmead," Elm Road.
 P. C. Veness, "Ormesby," Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea.
 W. P. Burden, 78 High Road, N. 11.
 R. Smith, 56 Canal Road, E. 1.
 J. R. Phipps, 44 Brudenell Road, Upper Tooting, S.W. 17.
 A. E. Florance, 18 Earlsthorpe Road, S.E. 26.
 V. D. Perrin, 28 Antill Road, Bow, E. 3.
 C. B. Hollins, All Hallows' Porch Room, Byward Street, E.C. 3.
 D. A. Royle, 9 Chudleigh Road.
 G. R. Peddle, 3 The Square, George Street.
 A. C. Beckett, 47 Wandle Road, S.W. 17.
 J. J. McLoughlin, 78 Crofton Road, Plaistow, E. 13.
 H. W. J. Monk, Monument Restaurant, Monument Hill.
 H. B. Adshead, c/o 33 Station Road, N.W. 10.
 R. C. Bryne, 24 St. George's Road, S.W. 19.
 C. H. Wake, 39 Truro Road, Wood Green, N. 22.
 H. Wynne, 62 Guild Road, Charlton, S.E. 17.

Home Counties Area.

Area Secretary: c/o The General Secretary, Headquarters, 1 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W. 1.

ALDERSHOT (41)
Beckenham
 BEDFORD (112)
 BROMLEY (69)
 BROXBOROUGH (113)
 CANTERBURY (37)
Chelsfield (C.C.)
Chislehurst
Cockernhoe (C.C.)
Crowthorne
 CUDHAM (85) (C.C.)
Dover
Farnborough
Folkestone
Gillingham
Godalming
Guildford
 HAROLD WOOD (90)
 HARPENDEN (114)
 KENS WORTH (64) (C.C.)
Keston
Leighton Buzzard
 LUTON (96)
 MAIDSTONE (5)
Markyate (C.C.)
 OXFORD (7)

 RADLETT (99)
Rainham
 READING (79)
St. Albans
Slough
Tilbury
 TUNBRIDGE WELLS (51)
Studham (C.C.)
 WEST KENT (77) (C.C.)
Whitstable
 WOLVERTON (13)

 S. Palmer, 17 Cargate Hill.
 C. E. Perkins, 23 Cedars Road.
 S. R. Evans, 38 Kingsley Road.
 J. S. Lock, 213 Southlands Road, Bickley, Kent.
 F. W. L. Pearson, The Warren, Broxbourne, Herts.
 W. H. Griffin, 7 Monastery Street.
 A. H. Blott, Well Hill, Chelsfield, Kent.
 H. J. Brown, Ivy Lodge, Church Row.
 E. Henman, 102 Mangrove, Cockernhoe, near Luton.
 S. E. Welfare, 1 Pasture Villa, White Hill.
 R. S. Forbes, 7 Coronation Terrace, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent.
 F. Prescott, 11 Stroud Street.
 R. H. Mills, 101 Grosvenor Road, Aldershot.
 T. L. Hicks, 9 Marine Crescent.
 A. C. Rees, 145 Albany Road.
 H. S. Burnham, "Glencaira," Peperharow Road.
 H. Burland, "Highbank," The Mount.
 H. F. Manning, Kingsgate, Harold Wood, Essex.
 F. Stephenson, "St. Just," Tennyson Road.
 F. Butterfield, The Bank, Kensworth, near Dunstable.
 P. A. Slessor, Oakwood, Keston, Kent.
 A. C. Holmes, 25a Hockliffe Street.
 L. J. Merchant, 134 Castle Street.
 J. C. Baxter, 9 St. Philip's Avenue.
 S. Trivick, 40 High Street, Markyate, Beds.
 A. W. Vallance, Manchester College (Gen. Secretary).
 W. R. Hatch, Exeter College (Assistant 'Varsity Sec.).
 V. C. Martin, 112 Walton Street (Assistant Town Sec.).
 T. P. Norris, Stokke, Radlett, Herts.
 S. H. Wickins, "Clovelly," Wakeley Road.
 R. A. Frowde, 95 King's Road.
 A. L. Cribb, Birtles, Battlefield Road.
 G. M. Oakeshott, "The Hob," Chestnut Avenue.
 E. S. Flower, 62 Sidney Road, Tilbury Docks.
 S. V. Berwick, 180 Grosvenor Road.
 H. Tearle, The Village, Studham, near Dunstable.
 F. C. Revers, Tollgate, Bearstead, near Maidstone.
 W. T. Fox, "Shenstone," Cromwell Road.
 J. A. Rose, 96 Anson Road.

East Anglian Area.

Area Secretary: c/o The General Secretary, Headquarters, 1 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W. 1.

CAMBRIDGE (4)
Clacton-on-Sea
 COLCHESTER (28)
Felixstowe
 J. M. Forde, St. Catherine's College ('Varsity Secretary).
 H. Dear, 64 Humberstone Road (Town Secretary).
 R. Davis, "Shamrock," Wellesley Road.
 H. N. Clark, 13 Sir Isaac's Walk.
 R. Wootton, "Capri," Foxgrove Road.

Great Yarmouth

IPSWICH (81)

NORWICH (75)

Stowmarket

Ufford, Wickham Market and Dist.

A. V. Bean, 60 Wolsley Road, Southdown.

E. J. Hilsden, Briar Tor, Ringham Road.

T. Smith, c/o 22 Tombland.

R. Cook, Prospect House, Lime Tree Place, Stowmarket, Suffolk.

K. J. Oxborrow, Stone Cottage, Pettistree, Wickham Market.

East Midlands Area

Area Secretary : c/o The General Secretary, Headquarters, 1 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.

Area Padre : Rev. A. L. Siderfin, Mark XI, 44 Princess Road, Leicester.

Hon. Visitor : A. R. Wates, same address.

Bardon Hill

Coalville

DERBY (35)

GRANTHAM (68)

Hinckley

LEICESTER (29)

LOUGHBOROUGH (95)

Market Harborough

Melton Mowbray

NORTHAMPTON (36)

NOTTINGHAM (66)

RUGBY (116)

SLEAFORD (38)

G. A. Wilkins, School House, Bardon Hill, near Leicester.

J. Emmerson, 56 Vaughan Street, Coalville, near Leicester.

F. G. Creed, 80 Normanton Road.

O. W. Lee, 43 North Parade.

A. C. Bedford, "The Briars," The Spa, Hinckley.

A. R. Wates, Mark XI, 44 Princess Road.

W. R. Wickens, 15 High Street.

J. W. Skempton, Angel Hotel.

J. A. Bruce, 87 Thorpe Road.

J. W. Hudson, 160 Cedar Road.

H. S. Hibbins, 59A Carrington Street.

R. V. Collier, 3 York Street.

R. Broughton, 61 North Road.

West Midlands Area

Area Secretary : L. Abdy, Mark VI, 77 Clifford Street, Lozells, Birmingham.

Area Padre : Rev. F. Spurway, same address.

BIRMINGHAM (18)

COVENTRY (26)

Hereford

Lichfield

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE (34)

Stafford

Wednesfield

West Malvern

Wolverhampton

D. Cochrane, Mark VI, 77 Clifford Street.

A. Bowen, 38 Bull's Head Lane, Stoke, Coventry.

M. Marshall, The Manor House, Beinton, near Hereford.

Noel Round, Theological College, Lichfield.

T. C. Maynard, Mill Hayes, Brindley Ford, Stoke-on-Trent.

H. K. Tuck, 139 Newport Road.

H. Price, 74 Hart Road.

G. H. Clare, Valley View, Montpelier Road.

H. Jones, 49 Oak View.

West and South Yorks Area

Area Secretary : A. Lodge, Mark XII, Shaw Royd, Halifax.

Area Padre : Rev. J. Redrobe, Mark VIII, Christchurch Road, Pitsmoor, Sheffield.

[NOTE.—W.Y.F. = Member of the West Yorks Federation; S.Y.F. = Member of the South Yorks Federation.]

Barnsley (S.Y.F.)

BRADFORD (20) (W.Y.F.)

Chesterfield

DEWSBURY (86) (W.Y.F.)

DONCASTER (108) (S.Y.F.)

HALIFAX (33) (W.Y.F.)

Holmfirth (W.Y.F.)

Honley

Hoyland and District (S.Y.F.)

Huddersfield (42) (W.Y.F.)

LEEDS (49) (W.Y.F.)

Lightcliffe (W.Y.F.)

MANSFIELD (82)

Mexborough (S.Y.F.)

Mirfield (W.Y.F.)

Rawmarsh (S.Y.F.)

Retford

ROTHERHAM (55) (S.Y.F.)

SHEFFIELD (17) (S.Y.F.)

SPEN VALLEY (24) (W.Y.F.)

Sutton-in-Ashfield

Wakefield (W.Y.F.)

Walkley (S.Y.F.)

Wath-on-Dearne (S.Y.F.)

West Sheffield (S.Y.F.)

E. Lyon, 6 Wansfell Terrace.

B. L. Bateson, "Ryedale," Tranmere Park, Hawksworth, Guiseley.

T. Phillips, Walton Drive, Baythorpe, Chesterfield.

R. Sheldrake, 29 Woodside, Leeds Road.

F. Smith, 20, Queen Mary Crescent, Kirk Sandall, near Doncaster.

F. Garside, Mark XII, Shaw Royd.

J. H. Brook, 80 Huddersfield Road.

R. M. Bilton, Bank House, Honley, near Huddersfield.

H. Goddard, King Street, Hoyland, near Barnsley.

C. Avery, 64 Parkgate, Beny Brow.

J. S. Platt, 11 Gledhow Wood Avenue.

P. Bruce Low, 19 Newton Park.

E. Wass, 52 Woodhouse Road.

G. A. Hudson, 7 Park View.

E. P. K. Hirst, 23 Nettleton Road.

C. Hague 203 Green Lane, Rawmarsh, near Rotherham.

E. Egerton, 58 Carolgate.

W. L. Jones, 4 Brown Street.

C. Hull, Mark VIII, Christchurch Road, Pitsmoor, Sheffield.

S. Burnett, 1 Platt Street, Liversedge.

H. J. Cook, 31 Council Houses, near Alfreton.

S. Turner, Stoneleigh House, Aggbrigg.

W. J. Williams, 46 High House Road, Sheffield.

H. Breislin, 20 Sandygate, Wath-on-Dearne, Rotherham.

J. E. Roebuck, 21 Ruth Square, Sheffield.

East and North Yorks and Lincs Area

Area Secretary : H. C. Miller, Mark X, Clarendon House, Hull.

Area Padre : Rev. T. Garaway, same address.

<i>Beverley</i>	W. A. Atkinson, 49 Mill Lane.
<i>Bridlington</i>	R. G. Kirlaw, 18 King's Street.
<i>Catterick</i>	R. R. Darling, 11 Whinny Hill.
<i>Cottingham</i>	G. V. Shepherd, 14 Linden Avenue.
<i>Dormston</i>	L. Swaine, 3 The Green.
<i>Gainsborough</i>	W. E. Plowright, News Office, Market Place.
<i>GOOLE (88)</i>	C. Barratt, 25 Jackson Street.
<i>Grangeaton</i>	W. R. Wilson, 60 Victoria Road.
<i>Grimsby</i>	H. J. Sanders, 26 Alexandra Road.
<i>HULL (40)</i>	W. A. Lunn, Mark X, Clarendon House.
<i>LINCOLN (56)</i>	E. Goodacre, Alvingham House, Rookery Lane.
<i>Louth</i>	E. F. S. Whitworth, 63 Eastgate.
<i>MIDDLESBROUGH (31)</i>	H. Casson, 68 Granville Road.
<i>Scarborough</i>	R. W. Smith, 17 Albemarle Crescent.
<i>Scunthorpe</i>	J. Parker, 17 Frodingham Road.
<i>SOUTH BANK (101)</i>	J. N. Davies, 75 Pym Street.
<i>WHITBY (118)</i>	E. L. Metcalfe, 1 Arundel Place.
<i>YORK (106)</i>	A. Stacey, 37 Melbourne Street.

Northern Area

Area Secretary : J. Walker, Mark XVIII, Greystoke, Grainger Park Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Area Padre : Rev. H. R. L. Slater, same address.

<i>Burradon</i>	G. Humble, 26 Grieves Row, Dudley, S.O. Northumberland.
<i>Carlisle</i>	H. Forsyth, 51 Dalston Road.
<i>Craghead</i>	J. B. E. Eddon, The Vicarage, Craghead, Co. Durham.
<i>Cullercoats</i>	H. S. Priestley, 11 Percy Avenue, Cullercoats, Whitby Bay.
<i>DURHAM (15)</i>	J. Lister, 19 Old Elvet, Durham.
<i>Felling</i>	W. H. Robson, 29 Windermere Street, Gateshead.
<i>GATESHEAD (61)</i>	A. Dodds, 190 Westbourne Avenue.
<i>HARTLEPOOLS (115)</i>	S. Scott, 23 Stanhope Avenue, W. Hartlepool.
<i>Hebburn-on-Tyne</i>	G. T. English, 8 Aln Street.
<i>NEWCASTLE (80)</i>	R. A. Shilston, Greystoke, Grainger Park Road.
<i>SOUTH SHIELDS (76)</i>	D. C. Anderson, 40 Garwood Street.
<i>Stockton-on-Tees</i>	Sid Ray, 42 Hind Street.
<i>Sunderland</i>	F. Darbyshire, 11 Pickard Street.
<i>Tanfield</i>	S. Curry, 6 Blanche Terrace, Tantobie, Co. Durham.

Lancashire Area

Area Secretary : M. C. Callis, Mark IV, Upper Park Road, Victoria Park, Manchester.

Area Padre : Rev. E. Davidson, Mark XIV, 1 Eccles Old Road, Salford.

Hon. Visitor : H. Leigh-Groves, Holecroft, Windermere.

[NOTE.—M.F. = member of the Manchester Federation.]

<i>ALTRINCHAM (41) (M.F.)</i>	J. F. Rodgers, 126 Stamford Park Road, Hale, Cheshire.
<i>BLACKBURN (45) (M.F.)</i>	R. Markham, The Parish Church, Blackburn.
<i>Bolton (M.F.)</i>	H. Yates, "Claremont," Green Lane.
<i>Great Budworth (M.F.)</i>	C. Holden, "Gwynfa," Cumberbach, near Northwich.
<i>Hyde (M.F.)</i>	A. R. Cook, c/o Higham Press, Hamnett Street, Hyde, Manchester.
<i>Hulme (M.F.)</i>	J. R. Colquhoun, 19 Russell Street, Moss Side, Manchester.
<i>Knutsford</i>	Ray White, The Test School.
<i>Lancaster</i>	G. H. J. Burrows, Bath House, Bath Street.
<i>MANCHESTER (3) (M.F.)</i>	R. H. Bealey, 30 Scarsdale Road, Victoria Park.
<i>Morecambe</i>	J. Cardukes, Stanley Terrace, Heysham, Morecambe.
<i>Newton Heath (M.F.)</i>	N. Shepherd, 517 Oldham Road, Newton Heath, Manchester.
<i>NORTHWICH (47) (M.F.)</i>	E. Nicholls, "Kelvin," 105 Cromwell Road.
<i>Oldham</i>	N. D. Arkinstall, 2 Auburn Bank, Moston Lane, Manchester.
<i>Poynton (M.F.)</i>	F. E. Smith, "Hunstan," Woodford Road, Poynton, Cheshire.
<i>St. Helens</i>	L. J. B. Forbes, "Glyn Garth," Cowley Hill Lane.
<i>SALFORD (57) (M.F.)</i>	C. P. Hampson, Wentworth, Ellesmere Park, Eccles.
<i>Staveley</i>	S. S. Smith, Gowan Cottage, Staveley, Kendal.
<i>STOCKPORT (46) (M.F.)</i>	W. Greaves, 44 Brinksway.
<i>Wigan (M.F.)</i>	T. Williams, 274 Gidlow Lane.
<i>WINDERMERE (52) (M.F.)</i>	J. W. Longmire, The Sycamores.

Mersey-side Area.

Area Secretary: c/o The General Secretary, Headquarters, 1 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.
Area Padre: Rev. E. Harrison, M.C., St. Catherine's Vicarage, Abercromby Square, Liverpool.
Birkenhead
DEESIDE AND DISTRICT (12) R. M. Henderson, 26 South Hill Road, Oxtou.
LIVERPOOL (19) F. H. Seager, 40 Church Street, Connah's Quay, Chester.
SOUTHPORT (117) T. F. Whittle, 4 Norwich Road, Wavertree, Liverpool.
Waterloo H. E. Wood, 24 Moss Lane.
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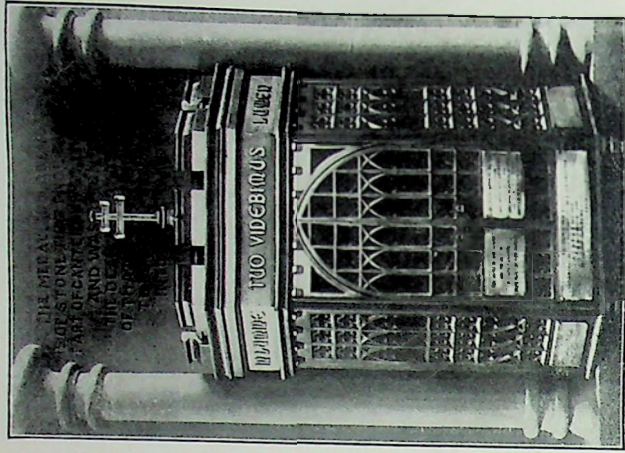
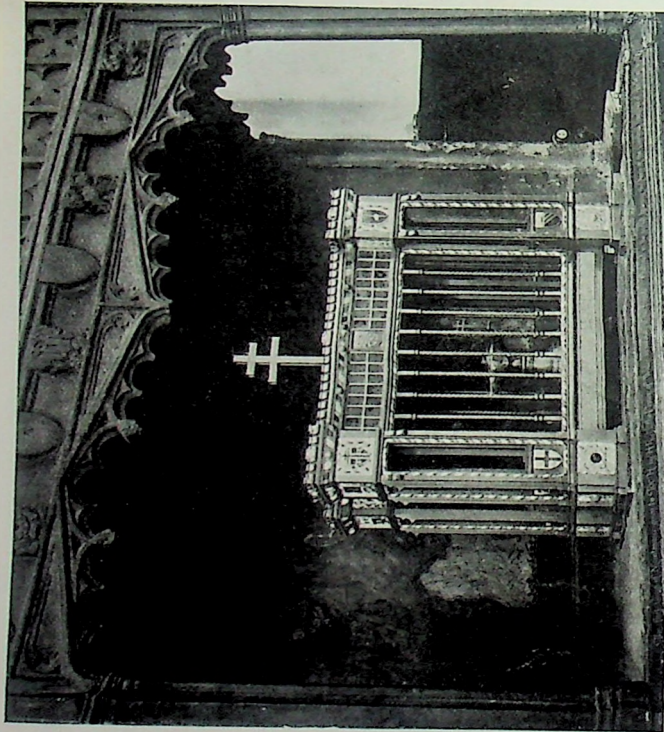
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"THE OLD HOUSE" IN POPERINGHE IN PEACE TIME.

The photograph (by H. E. Castle, Kingston and Surbiton Branch) shows members of the Toc H Pilgrimage party waiting in the Rue de l'Hopital for their turn to enter Talbot House on Sunday, August 29, 1926.



TWO SHRINES OF THE TOC H LAMP OF MAINTENANCE.

On the left: THE CASKET OF THE PRINCE'S LAMP enshrines the Lamp given in 1922 by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales "in memory of his friends." It stands on the tomb of Sir John Croke (an early Warden of a 15th century Men's Guild) in All Hallows, Berkyngechurch, London. The Casket, made of bronze, gilded and coloured, was designed by Alec Smithers (General Member, made by the Bromsgrove Guild, and unveiled by the Prince of Wales on December 15, 1923). The arms of the Patron, flanked by those of Poperingue and Ypres, are inset in enamel on the front; arms representing the first ten Houses of Toc H, in enamel, on the projecting corners; and arms of Branches and Groups, painted on small panels of glass, fill the space above the Lamp, and are now being added down the side pillars: these are lighted from inside. See July JOURNAL, 1923, for Alec Smithers' design, exhibited in the Royal Academy that year, and February JOURNAL, 1925, for a drawing by A. A. Moore of the whole tomb, with the Casket. (Black kindly lent by the Bromsgrove Guild.)

On the right: THE CASKET OF THE FORSTER LAMP in the Warriors' Chapel of Newcastle Cathedral, N.S.W. The inscription on it runs: "Enclosed in this shrine, commemorating the sacrifice of the Elder Brethren in peace and war, is the Forster Lamp, the Parent Lamp of Maintenance of Toc H Australia." The Lamp was given in 1923 by Lord and Lady Forster in memory of two sons killed in action, and was put in the Casket on September 30, 1926. The Casket of bronze was designed by Mr. F. G. Castleden, architect of Newcastle Cathedral, executed by Wunderlich, Ltd., and given to Toc H by the people of Newcastle. The gates of the Shrine was the gift of Mrs. C. Fenwick in memory of her father, Col. J. L. Beeston, M.D., C.M.G. (Black kindly lent by "The British Australian and New Zealanders" newspaper.)